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Pakistan to probe army chief's death

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Monday ordered an official inquiry into allegations by the widow of former army chief General Asif Nawaz that her husband was poisoned in a political murder last January. The general's widow Nuzhat made the charge on Sunday, but she did not say exactly how her husband was killed or by whom. Mr. Sharif named three judges of the supreme court to form the inquiry commission and submit their report within a month, state-run television said. Several opposition politicians campaigning for the ouster of Mr. Sharif urged President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to order an inquiry. Gen. Nawaz, 56, died last January of a heart attack during early morning exercises at his home in Rawalpindi, headquarters of Pakistan's powerful military. "I am sure that this unnatural death was a political assassination," Nuzhat told a news conference on Sunday. She said she was considering whether to bring charges but declined to say against whom. Her husband's refusal to become involved in politics had made enemies among politicians for army backing, she said.

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Arab delegates discuss Libyan crisis

CAIRO (AP) — Arab League permanent representatives Monday discussed Arab efforts to resolve Libya's crisis with the West. Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary-general of the 21-member organisation, said they discussed recent efforts by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia to end air travel, arms sales and diplomatic sanctions imposed on Libya a year ago. Dr. Abdul Meguid told reporters that the United Nations' decision to renew the sanctions for a period of three months without escalating them gives Arabs a chance to mediate the crisis. He said the league would try to arrange for the handover of two suspects indicted by the United States and Britain for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Sudan pardons women prisoners

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist military government paid fines and pardoned 250 female convicts who completed training for Sudan's Popular Defence Forces militia. The women, shown on television Sunday night leaving Al Zahra'a camp, named for a daughter of the Prophet Mohammad, were convicted of adultery, dealing in alcoholic beverages and theft. A television report said some non-Muslims among them had converted in the camp. The government officials' that collect the zakat said it would pay the women's fines totaling 1.4 million Sudanese pounds (\$14,000). Interior Minister Abdul Rahim Mohammad Hussein said the group constituted the first batch of women "repentants," implying more will undergo the course later. About 200 male prisoners were pardoned last year under the same programme after the government paid their fines and blood money to relatives of victims.

Kurdish rebels to extend ceasefire

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's Kurdish rebels will extend a 26-day ceasefire due to expire Thursday, Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani was quoted as saying Monday. Mr. Talabani won agreement for an extension in talks with the leader of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), a statement from the Ankara office of Mr. Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said. "Mr. Talabani informed us that he held a meeting with Mr. Abdullah Ocalan, PKK leader, and convinced him to renew the ceasefire which will expire on April 15," the statement said. It said Mr. Ocalan would announce the extension this week after consulting the rest of the PKK leadership.

Saudis 'satisfied' with Thai probe

BANGKOK (AP) — Relations with Saudi Arabia are improving as Thai officials make progress in investigations of unsolved theft and murder cases, the foreign minister said Monday. Prince Mohammad Ben Nawab Ben Abdul Aziz arrived Sunday to check on police investigations of the Bangkok murder of four Saudi embassy employees in 1989 and 1990, the disappearance in 1990 of a Saudi businessman, and a Thai worker's 1989 theft of royal jewelry in Saudi Arabia. Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri, who met with the prince over lunch for 90 minutes, said later the prince was satisfied with progress in the investigations. Prince Mohammad declined to be interviewed.

Thousands attend Suez funeral

SUEZ (AP) — Tens of thousands of mourners gathered in Monday's funeral of the highest-ranking police officer killed in a protracted, violent campaign by Muslim militants to take power in Egypt. Major General Mohammed Al Sheimy, 53, gunned down Sunday, was deputy security chief in Assiut, a centre of Islamic fundamentalism 320 kilometres south of Cairo. Four suspected Muslim extremists ambushed his car Sunday as it pulled out of a police station in Abu Tig, near Assiut, and fatally shot Sheimy, his driver and bodyguard.

Continued siege creates hardship for Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — With the Palestinian economy losing \$3 million a day from Israel's closure of the occupied territories, the first signs of hunger may appear soon, a Palestinian economist said Monday.

Israel's government Sunday adopted proposals by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to keep the West Bank and Gaza Strip sealed indefinitely and sharply cut the number of Palestinian labourers in Israel.

Mr. Rabin believes the separation of the two peoples is needed to curb violence and win public support in Israel for peace talks with the Palestinians.

But Palestinian peace negotiators warned Monday that the closure is further eroding popular support among the Palestinians for negotiations with Israel.

"With the closure, they placed another obstacle in front of the peace talks," said Samir Abdulrahman, an economist and member of the Palestinian negotiating team. "How can we believe they are looking for a peaceful relationship in the future?"

Mr. Abdulrahman said the \$3 million daily from the closure amounted to about 0.15 per cent of the total annual income of \$2 billion in the West Bank, Gaza and Arab East Jerusalem.

The closure, imposed March 31 after Arabs killed 13 Israelis in one month, bans two million

Palestinians from entering Israel. Among those barred are 120,000 workers whose wages make up about 40 per cent of the income of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Many are day labourers in construction and farming.

The restrictions also cut the West Bank in half, and separate East Jerusalem from its hinterland.

The government decided Sunday to funnel an unspecified amount of assistance to unemployed Palestinians and develop a programme to create jobs. One minister said 488 million shekels (\$177 million) would be invested in creating jobs in 1993.

Mr. Abdulrahman estimated that about \$2.55 billion were needed to create jobs for the 170,000 unemployed in the occupied territories.

In the West Bank's Al Amari refugee camp near Ramallah, Palestinians were angry and sceptical about Israeli plans to create jobs in the occupied territories.

"It's ink on paper," said Muhedeen Latif, 33. "In normal conditions, when Arabs wanted to start shops and went to an Israeli bank for a loan, they didn't get any help."

Mr. Latif has been caught in an ironical trap. He owns a carpentry shop in the West Bank village of Hizma, but the only road to it is through Jerusalem so he cannot go to work.

He is a father of six and also

supports his mother. His family was among those driven out of Lydda in 1948 by the Israeli army under the command of Mr. Rabin, then a young officer.

Yehya Atuki, 25, also a carpenter, is blocked from going to the Israeli-owned shop he worked for in Jerusalem. He said he is already starting to economise on food.

"I have one boy. Others have many boys. They need to buy milk for the children," he said. "It just gets worse."

Mr. Abdulrahman, the economist, estimated there would be first signs of hunger in two or three weeks, noting that Palestinians have used up most of their reserves in the many strikes and closures of the more than five-year revolt against the occupation.

Last week, Israeli economist Ezra Sadan warned of impending disaster. "The Palestinian economy may overcome six or eight weeks, using up savings. But eventually it will come to a catastrophe in Gaza," Mr. Sadan said.

Two government ministers voted against the Rabin proposals, saying they backed separation in principle but that plans for aiding the Palestinians were too vague.

In a week or two the flour sack will be empty and you have a situation which is dangerous to us

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians on final sprint for Washington talks on April 20

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinians began a final sprint Monday to take their place at resumed Middle East peace talks with Israel in Washington next week.

"We are putting the final touches on a decision," said Faisal Al Hussein, the Palestinian leader from Arab East Jerusalem likely to be accepted by Israel as a member of the negotiating team instead of backstage coordinator.

This week will see a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and a Arab foreign ministers' session in Damascus to nudge the talks back on track in time for next Tuesday's planned Washington round.

Mr. Hussein said: "We want to go."

But he added: "The decision has not yet been taken. We need to clarify some questions."

A Palestinian team is going to Washington Tuesday for preparatory talks with the United States administration. The team will be headed by Haidar Abdul Shafi, chief of the Palestinian negotiating team, Mr. Hussein said.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was to hold talks in Cairo with Mr. Mubarak before the Egyptian leader's meeting with Mr. Rabin in Egypt on Wednesday, he added.

Although the PLO has not yet formally announced Palestinian willingness to attend the round of Washington talks, it is expected to approve their participation in negotiations stalled by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said an Arab coordination meeting to decide whether to return to the talks would resume in Damascus Friday (see separate story).

Mr. Hussein said in an interview with Israeli army radio on Saturday that the Palestinians were no longer demanding the return of all the exiles as a condition to returning to the negotiations — frequently described by the United States as the last train for peace.

"We work for an immediate return of all deportees, those at Marj Al Zuhour or those expelled after (the Arab-Israeli war of)

1967, which could start by steps," he said Monday.

Palestinian expellees in Lebanon said they were relying on Syria to prevent the talks resuming before Israel allowed them back.

"We hold Syria responsible because we consider it the heavyweight in the region," said Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, leader of the 396 stranded in South Lebanon.

"We believe that Syria can put pressure to change the stand of the Palestinian delegation and influence the decision of the (Arab) frontlines," he said.

"We urge it (Syria) to use its pressing role so that it will not allow Israel and America to execute their plan directed against the innocent sons of the Palestinian people," Dr. Rantisi told reporters at the exiles' makeshift tented camp.

Dr. Rantisi said the exiles expected nothing from the meeting Wednesday between President Mubarak and Mr. Rabin.

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. ready to restore Iraq ties if U.N. demands met

DUBAI (R) — The commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, General Joseph Hoar, was quoted Monday as saying Washington would restore ties with Iraq if it met Gulf war-related U.N. resolutions.

But he said Iraq still had to destroy all weapons of mass destruction, repatriate prisoners of war and pay compensation for damages incurred by its invasion of Kuwait.

Gen. Hoar told Qatar's Al Sharq newspaper: "The stage will be set to restore ties with Iraq to what they were before (the Gulf) crisis," the minute it abided by the U.N. resolutions.

Most of Washington's Gulf Arab allies refuse contacts with Baghdad while Saddam Hussein is in power, although Qatari leaders exchanged messages in February with the Iraqi leader.

Gen. Hoar left Doha Monday after a two-day visit. The interview was reported by the Qatari News Agency.

Kuwait claims more than 600 of its citizens are still missing since Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf war and it believes they are being held by Baghdad.

Gen. Hoar said Washington would reduce its military presence in the region if Iraq met the U.N. demands and stability was

achieved in the area.

He said the United States had only three warships and "a group of aircraft" in the Gulf.

On Sunday, Gen. Hoar told Reuters that firing by U.S. jets at an Iraqi military position in northern Iraq two days earlier was "perhaps an isolated incident," Washington said the jets were fired at from the ground.

Gen. Hoar replaced General Norman Schwarzkopf after the Gulf war as commander of the U.S. forces in the Middle East.

The United States said planes patrolling Iraq's northern "no-fly" zone dropped four cluster bombs in response to ground fire on Friday. Iraq denied shooting at the planes and called the raid a complete surprise.

The general, in Qatar for routine contacts with the Gulf country's leaders, said it was his initial impression that the alleged shooting was an isolated incident.

He declined to speculate on how the United States would react in the event of any further Iraqi shootings.

The bombing near Saddam Dam, about 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, was the first incident of its kind since Feb. 3, when French Mirage jets patrolling the zone came under fire.

Oil states discuss quotas and energy tax

MUSCAT (AP) — Oil producers gathered Monday to discuss two crucial problems — too much crude and proposed energy taxes that threaten to undercut demand.

Representatives of two dozen countries planned to focus on environmental measures in the United States and the European Community (EC), which include tax proposals aimed at reducing the use of carbon fuels by adding to their cost.

But that issue was overshadowed by conflict within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries over quotas set for the spring quarter to help boost prices.

Independent surveys have measured OPEC production in March at 700,000 barrels a day above the ceiling of 23.6 million set by the 12 OPEC ministers.

Most of the blame has gone to Iran and Nigeria. Although Tehran has denied violating its quota, the allegations have brought a bristling response from Kuwait, which opposed a 20 per cent cut its allotment.



An Israeli soldier Monday checks passengers in a bus at the northern entrance to Jerusalem (AFP photo)

Cabinet closer to enacting temporary sales tax law

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Following meetings and consultations with the private sector, the government is closer to enacting a temporary law introducing a sales tax with effect from May 1, replacing a consumption tax levied since last year in line with the economic recovery and restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Officials maintain that the sales tax will not impose any new burden on consumers since they are already paying the consumption tax in the same range. They say that the higher-income class, which consumes the bulk of "luxury products," will bear the brunt of the new levy.

According to economist Fahed Fanek, sales tax is expected to bring in to JD 125 million to the treasury every year — the same as envisaged under the consumption tax.

Dr. Fanek described the sales tax structure on various

goods and sectors as fair and said that he did not expect it to add new burden on the low-income bracket.

"There will not be any major changes," he told the Jordan Times. The new law only switches one form of tax into another and therefore "there is no additional burden on the public."

One feature of the draft law, he said, was that the services sector, which is exempt from consumption tax by virtue of its nature, will now have to pay sales tax.

Service-oriented professionals — lawyers, architects, accountants, and others — will have to present a list of their activities to the government and pay sales tax on their fees. Dr. Fanek said.

The actual impact of the law on the various sectors would be known only after the finalisation of a list of products subject to the tax.

Foreign economists say that the measure, if administered across-the-board, is bound to increase the rate of inflation, which Jordan managed to

keep under acceptable levels last year and expects to maintain this year.

On the other hand, it will keep consumption down and cut down imports, they say.

In the meantime, intense consultations are under way among the government and the trade and industry sectors to formulate the final version of the draft law, which will be enacted with a royal decree in the absence of a sitting Parliament.

Under the law, it is proposed that the government will collect the tax on imported products at the point of entry and on locally-produced items from their manufacturers before the goods leave their warehouses.

Basic food items, medicine, education supplies for children, and education materials will be exempt from the tax, which will be applied at 10 per cent for items classified as "general products" and up to 25 per cent for "luxury goods."

"Our discussions with the

(Continued on page 5)

Sudan pins economic hopes on Libya

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

KHARTOUM — Sudan, currently suffering from severe oil and foreign currency reserves shortages, is hoping that an economic agreement with Libya will help put its economy back on track and provide it with its needs of fuel.

Sudanese Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi said he hoped the two countries would this week reactivate a trade agreement under which Libya provided Sudan with most of its oil needs until a year ago.

The talks could lead to eventual merger between Libya and Sudan which have already allowed free movement of goods and labour. In 1990, Khartoum and Tripoli signed a pact with the two countries said could lead to a

complete merger.

Mr. Hamdi said Sudan, which on Saturday stopped allowing gas to private cars and taxis, will buy oil from anybody that sells it. "If America would give us oil on reasonable terms we would accept," Mr. Hamdi told the Jordan Times Monday before flying to Damascus for an Arab finance ministers meeting.

Sudan is also trying to secure part of its annual needs of 1.2 million tonnes of crude oil from Iran, but Mr. Hamdi said differences over terms of payment have to be worked out before Iranian oil shipments to Sudan are resumed.

He said the two countries have to agree on conditions of payment for Sudan's \$80 million debt to Iran which date back to the early seventies.

"We have to work out a

scheme where we can repay them (the Iranians) or give them assurance for payment over a long period," Mr. Hamdi told the Jordan Times on board a Sudan Airways flight to Amman Monday morning.

Sudan is currently buying all of its oil needs from the spot market, but it is unable to meet its needs because of severe foreign currency reserves shortages.

Sudan's annual oil bill amounts to \$300 million, according to Mr. Hamdi.

"We have no reserves. We are using whatever is available as the government to get necessary facilities," Mr. Hamdi said.

Sudan, however, is trying to lure foreign investment to revitalise its staggering economy and help the economic restructuring programme started in 1990.

Mr. Hamdi said Sudan was

holding negotiations with a consortium of foreign firms and expected them to start coming to Sudan within 30 months. These companies, he said, include Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates businesses but that "have no political indications."

Relations between Khartoum and the Gulf states deteriorated during the Gulf crisis when Sudan refused to support the war coalition against Iraq. Gulf states have since stopped their financial aid to Sudan.

Mr. Hamdi was not optimistic about aid from international donors, saying that their approach to his country's problems were "extremely political."

"(These organisations) go back to their donors to see what they like and not," he said.

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Gonzalez calls early polls

MADRID (AP) — Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, leader of the deeply divided Socialist Party, Monday called general elections for June 6, five months early.

Mr. Gonzalez, 51, cited the debate about Spain's economic woes as the reason for moving up the election date.

"We are in an economic crisis that a lot of countries are experiencing," Mr. Gonzalez said.

"The first and main reason for deciding to hold the elections in summer is to try to reorient this climate in such a manner that a government legitimised by the ballot box... can carry out the economic policies needed by the country in a calmer atmosphere," Mr. Gonzalez told reporters.

Mr. Gonzalez made his announcement after meeting with his cabinet and King Juan Carlos two days after discussions with the executive committee of the

Spanish Socialist Workers Party.

The prime minister, who came to power after a landslide victory in October 1982, is legally required to call elections by the end of October.

The Socialists won 175 of 350 seats in the lower house of parliament in the last general elections in October 1989. Since then, it has been shaken by a rift between its traditional left wing and the so-called moderate pragmatists responsible for market-oriented economic policy.

With an economic recession gripping once-booming Spain and unemployment topping 20 per cent, the socialists have seen their popularity dwindle. Corruption scandals involving the former deputy prime minister's brother and allegedly "gal schemes to finance the party have further sapped support for the socialists.

Gorbachev sees no chance of hardliners coming back

NEW YORK (R) — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev says he sees no chance of former communist hardliners returning to power in Russia if President Boris Yeltsin called early general elections.

Asked in a U.S. television interview broadcast Monday if the conservatives could return to power through elections, Mr. Gorbachev said: "No, I rule this out."

"The communist fundamentalists, as I call them, and other people who want a kind of political revenge, I don't think they will be able to capture the historical initiative," said Mr. Gorbachev.

"People don't want to go back to past."

But he stressed that Mr. Yeltsin should call national elections,

and not merely the referendum on his rule set for April 25, as a way of isolating the hardliners.

"If the current policies, the policies pursued in 1992, were to continue, the situation might become much more difficult and it would be very difficult even to hold elections," said Mr. Gorbachev, speaking through a translator during an interview on Sunday in Richmond, Virginia. "I've been suggesting the elections be held as soon as possible."

What we need is not a referendum, a plebiscite or a poll. We would just be wasting time," said the former Kremlin leader, now on a U.S. tour.

"I very much support the idea of early elections," he said.

Tycoon wins elections, page 8

Israel dangles bait to draw Palestinians to peace talks

By Jack Redden
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Israel is dangling powerful bait at the Palestinians to lure them back to Middle East peace talks.

The offer is new hope of negotiations on the future of Jerusalem, the world's most fought over piece of real estate.

Israeli cabinet ministers insist that sudden willingness to let Faisal Al Hussein, the leader from Arab East Jerusalem, join the talks changes Israel's position that its "claim" to all the city is not open to bargaining.

But the significance of including a native of Jerusalem was not lost on Palestinians — or members of the previous Likud government of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who refused to negotiate with any Jerusalem Palestinians.

"If we can include someone from Jerusalem, Faisal in particular, this would be a breakthrough," said Sari Nusseibeh, a philosophy professor working with the Palestinian delegation head whose family has been in Jerusalem for centuries.

New prominence for Mr. Hussein, along with the return of a few dozen Palestinians exiled in past years, could be enough to end the impasse created by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December and clear the way for peace talks to resume in Washington next Monday.

A deal could emerge late this week after a flurry of meetings by all countries involved.

Full participation by the Palestinian Hussein — he has been directing the team from outside the talks — will be a constant reminder that Palestinians want the eastern half of the city as the capital of a future independent state.

Hardliner Shamir had refused to let any Palestinian from Arab East Jerusalem



Faisal Hussein

into the negotiations, fearing it would raise questions over Israel's "claim" to the land it seized and immediately annexed in 1967.

The United States, which with almost all countries refuses to recognise Israeli "sovereignty" over Arab East Jerusalem, went along with Mr. Shamir because the final status of Jerusalem promised to be one of the most intractable disputes.

Arab East Jerusalem is the economic, political and religious centre of Palestinian life. It is vital to any Palestinian entity — you cannot drive from the north of the occupied West Bank to the south without crossing Jerusalem.

But Jerusalem is central to Judaism. Israel has moved aggressively since seizing the city to make withdrawal impossible. Jerusalem's boundaries were extended and Jewish settlements sprang up on the new land to encircle the Arab area.

The concept of Jerusalem has also taken on a broader sweep. Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin talks of a "greater Jerusalem" that would sprawl across the great

swathe of occupied land being developed as Jewish dormitory zones.

"Jerusalem will remain united as the capital of Israel under Israeli sovereignty," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres maintained when asked the implications of Mr. Hussein's enhanced role. "This is not going to be changed."

In reality, East Jerusalem is a city under occupation. The separation of the two sides is almost as stark as the pre-1967 days when Jerusalem was split between Jordan and Israel.

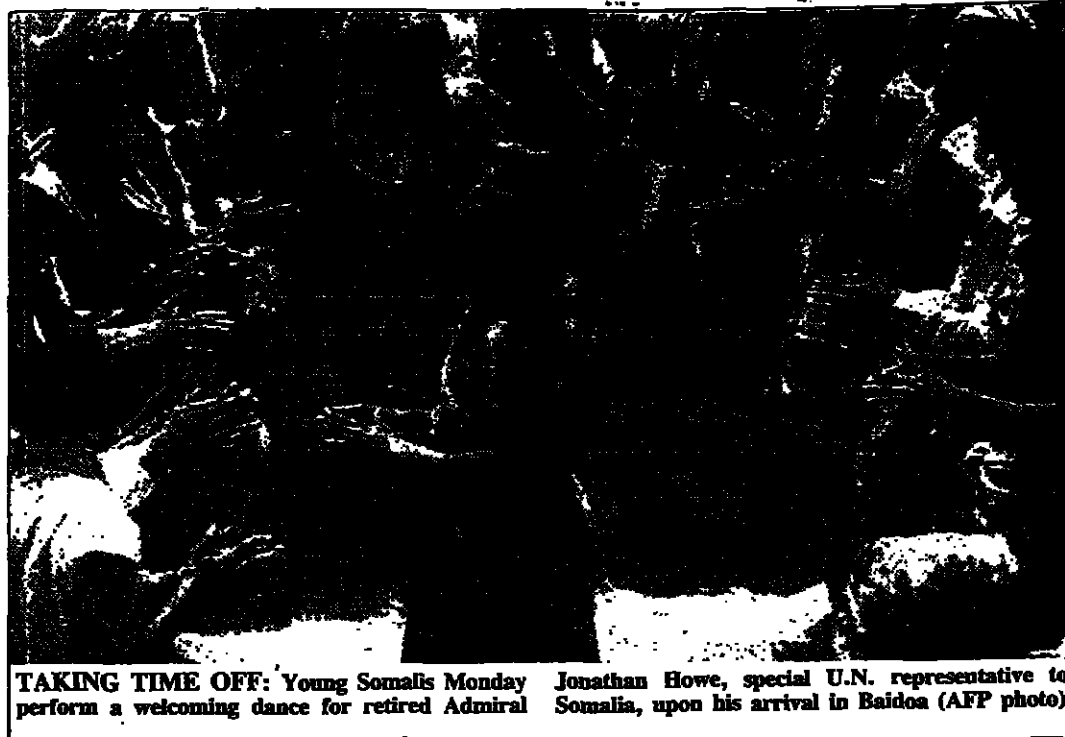
Few Arabs venture into the Jewish half, even fewer Jews wander Arab streets. A major road opened this month along the old "green line" that once separated the city. It carries Israelis to settlements built since 1967 and sweeps past the Arab heart of East Jerusalem.

Officially, the future of Jerusalem will remain off the table at this stage, which is to negotiate a five-year period of limited self-rule — "autonomy" — for the nearly two million Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The future of Jerusalem and its 140,000 Arabs — almost all rejecting Israeli citizenship — will not come up until a final Israeli-Palestinian settlement is negotiated starting in the third year of autonomy.

The prospect of Mr. Hussein, the epitome of the Palestinian elite in Jerusalem, debating the shape of autonomy alarms Israeli hardliners. They fear it brings closer the day of bargaining on Jerusalem.

"We will be negotiating with a Palestinian leader who is a Jerusalemite and in the eyes of the Arabs — whether Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian, Syrian wherever — that we started here this day negotiating on Jerusalem," said Eliahu Ben-Elissar, a member of the right-wing Likud party.



TAKING TIME OFF: Young Somalis Monday Jonathan Howe, special U.N. representative to perform a welcoming dance for retired Admiral Somalia, upon his arrival in Baidoa (AFP photo)

Iran tells Azerbaijan, Armenia to stop war

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Monday urged Azerbaijan and Armenia to stop fighting and threatened to adopt a "more serious position" if they did not end clashes near its border.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told visiting Azeri Secretary of State Panakh Guseinov that the latest fighting had moved so close to the border that it had become a security matter for Iran, Tehran Radio reported.

"If this trend continues, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will have no choice but to adopt a more serious position," the radio quoted him as telling Mr. Guseinov.

"We hope the speedy cessation of fighting in the area will make such a position unnecessary," Mr. Rafsanjani added.

He did not say what the position might be but he stressed Tehran's neutrality and said Iran was ready to help any effort for a peaceful solution between the two ex-Soviet republics.

"Attacking and occupying a country's territory is never a logical means for a lasting solution to conflict," Mr. Rafsanjani said, pointing to Tehran's demand for an Armenian withdrawal.

Tehran Radio said in a commentary that the flare-up of fighting increased the risk of outside interference in the conflict over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh which has killed more than 2,500 people since 1988.

Mr. Guseinov arrived in Tehran Sunday to seek help after Armenian forces seized some 10 per cent of Azeri territory west and south of the mainly Armenian populated Nagorno-Karabakh.

He left Tehran after the meeting with Mr. Rafsanjani in which he delivered a message from Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey.

Armenian forces have pushed close to the southern Azeri town of Fizuli close to Iran's frontier. Iranian media say the blast of artillery fire can be heard across the border.

Wounded Azeri fighters were flown to Tehran for treatment last week after Baku's appeal for humanitarian help.

Iran has a large community of both Shiite Muslim Azeris and a smaller one of Christian Armenians.

Iran's relations with Baku have been complicated since Mr. Elchibey's pro-Turkish party swept to power last June, whipping up pan-Azeri sentiments, criticising Tehran's treatment of its Azeris and accusing it of siding with Armenia.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Tehran denies Habibi to step down

NICOSIA (AP) — The Office of Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday denied a report that Vice-President Hassan Habibi would step down. The brief denial came in a letter published in the English-language Tehran Times, cited by the official Islamic Republic News Agency in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus. The newspaper reported Thursday that Mr. Habibi would step down in a limited reshuffle of the senior leadership. The Tehran Times did not go into the reasons for the predicted resignation, and its report could not be independently confirmed. The newspaper often reflects Mr. Rafsanjani's views. Mr. Habibi, a French-educated lawyer who was appointed vice president Aug. 21, 1989, has failed to play an active role in the government. His low profile has been in contrast with his powerful position as the president's right-hand man.

Quake hits edge of Iran's oil region

NICOSIA (R) — An earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale shook an area on the edge of Iran's main oil producing region Monday but caused no casualties or damage, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. The tremor struck Gachsaran, 600 kilometres south of Tehran, at 3.57 a.m. (2327 GMT Sunday). IRNA said. It was the latest in a series of earthquakes which jolted various parts of Iran in the past two weeks.

Rushdie caricature contest under way

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran, which has put a bounty on the head of British writer Salman Rushdie, now is running a "Satanic conspiracy" international caricature competition in his name. The official Islamic Republic News Agency said Sunday that the deadline for drawings will be June 4, when the country marks the anniversary of the 1989 death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the competition was being coordinated by the Iranian weekly Kayhan Havar. It quoted the magazine's cultural editor, Mohammad Hadi Parvin, as saying the contest "is aimed at portraying the real conspiracy behind the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses'." The magazine says 160 gold coins will be distributed as prizes. Some 500 entries already have been received, it said. Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding since February 1989, when Ayatollah Khomeini decreed he should be killed for insulting Islam in his novel. The Iranians have put a bounty on the writer's head in excess of \$2 million.

Kurdish parliament names new premier

NICOSIA (AP) — The Kurd's national council in northern Iraq has asked Abdullah Rasul to form a new government, replacing a cabinet that has served less than a year. The announcement was carried on the Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan radio. Mr. Rasul, a former guerrilla commander, was identified in the broadcast as a member of the political bureau of Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of the major Iraqi guerrilla groups. He replaces Prime Minister Fuad Masum, who formed the first 15-member cabinet last July. The move had been expected, and Mr. Rasul said in a recent interview that "it is a change of faces, not of policy." He said security would be a priority. The Kurds held elections in May 1992 to select a legislature to run day-to-day affairs after Iraqi government cut ties and declared an embargo on the northern region, home to about 3.5 million Kurds. The move came after U.S.-led allies had declared a "no-fly" zone in northern Iraq. The Kurds set up their own government after repeated efforts to strike an autonomy agreement with Baghdad were unsuccessful. Last October, the parliament voted in favour of a federated state in northern Iraq, a departure from the Kurds' pursuit of autonomy under the Baghdad government.

Bosnian president heads for Mecca

DUBAI (R) — Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic set out on a pilgrimage to Mecca on Monday after appealing to the Muslim World for help in his people's war against Serbian forces. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Sunday night that Mr. Izetbegovic left for the Red Sea port of Jeddah after talks with Saudi Arabian King Fahd, who supports lifting an arms embargo in Bosnia to allow Muslims to arm themselves against attacks by the better-equipped Serbs. Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest shrines, has led Muslim states in providing humanitarian and financial aid to Bosnian Muslims. Mr. Izetbegovic was awarded the \$93,333 King Faisal International Prize for his services to Islam Saturday. He pledged to donate half the money to wounded Bosnian Muslims and refugees and to use the rest to rebuild his and three of his children's houses destroyed in Serb attacks.

Kabul government allows women to reappear on TV

KABUL (AP) — Nearly a year after they were banished from the airwaves, Afghanistan's Islamic government has allowed women to reappear on television.

State-run Afghan Television began broadcasting Saturday night after being knocked off their air by fighting between government forces and renegade rebels.

Viewers were startled but excited to see a young woman on their screens reading the news. Her hair, however, was covered with the traditional black Islamic veil.

An Iranian movie, made during the reign of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, followed. The film, about Iranian soldiers fighting tribal smugglers, showed the leading lady with all but her eyes covered.

"We have women on TV. We have women in the movies," Mohammad Rafi, a 28-year-old teacher, said excitedly.

Throughout the 14-year war between the Muslim rebels and the Soviet-installed government, women regularly appeared on television in Western-style dress.

But within days of assuming power from the former communist government in April 1992, Muslim rebel leaders cracked down on women, ordering them to wear traditional baggy trousers and tunic and to cover their heads when they left their homes.

They also banned women from reading the news on television, largely as a concession to two of the most radical rebel chiefs, Mohammad Yunis Khalis and Abdul Rasool Sayyaf. Both loudly complained it was un-Islamic for women to be seen in public.

But Mr. Sayyaf was eased his hardline stance in recent months, trying to project his image as Afghanistan's father figure and spiritual leader. Mr. Khalis' influence has diminished and he has all but pulled out of the rebel coalition, saying it is not Islamic enough.

Earlier this year, Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud decided women newscasters would be brought back to the air. "What are they going to do? Close the roads if we put women back on television?" asked one Defence Ministry official.

When the rebels assumed power, most Kabul women feared they would be forced to quit school, give up their jobs and stay indoors unless they donned the burqa, the tent-like veil flowing from head to toe.

But their worst fears have not materialised, and many Kabul women are starting to challenge the rebel leaders' dictates that forced them to alter their lifestyles.

Alarmed by what he considered an attempt to bring back immodesty, one rebel leader, Ayatollah Assef Mohseini, went on state-run Kabul Radio and urged them to observe the Islamic dress code.

"Many of our Islamic sisters are not observing hijab. They are only making a token effort and not covering all of their hair. If our sisters keep flouting the law, there is a possibility they will be approached, stopped and ordered to cover themselves. We ask all our sisters to please start observing proper Islamic hijab, Mr. Mohseini said.

His remarks were seen as a gentle warning to women and a licence to government soldiers to "harass them" about their dress. But both sides have ignored the message.

Government forces have been preoccupied trying to control looting, armed robbery and car theft that has become endemic in the capital, and women are using their preoccupation to see how far they can go.

Many women have pulled out their long tight skirts and their black fishnet stockings, put on their bright red lipstick and nail polish and let their thick black hair peek out from their brightly coloured scarves. Some accompanied by their husbands have even dared to wear their scarves around their necks.

One 24-year-old kindergarten teacher, Rubiya, only giggled and shrugged when asked if the rebel fighters patrolling downtown Kabul might be offended that she had only a white filmy scarf dangling from a huge knot atop her head. "Ever since the Mujahideen (rebels) have come to Kabul, they have harassed women. Now it's their turn to be harassed," she said.

Iranian dissidents say attacks killed 150 guards

AMMAN (J.T.) — The main Iranian opposition group has said its fighters killed more than 150 government troops in a series of attacks in retaliation for the killing in Italy of its representative.

The Mujahideen-e-Khalq of Iran said in a statement that its supporters in Iran carried out 11 operations from April 1-8 bases of the Pasdaran guards.

Protest rallies and demonstrations had also been held in 14 cities against alleged human rights violations as part of the Mujahideen response to the killing in Rome last month of Mohammad Hossein Naghdi, the Iranian opposition representative in Italy.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the attacks. One of the main actions claimed by the group was the capture and destruction of a key military communications base on the Komku Heights near the city of Gilan Gharb last Thursday.

It said more than 50 guards were killed or wounded in heavy clashes during an attack on a base near Dehloran, and others died during ambushes on military vehicles in Mazandaran province and on the Ahwaz-Khorramshahr highway.

The Mujahideen alleged that Naghdi was killed by Iranian diplomats on the orders of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The group said Monday, Iranian government, radio and television had aired lengthy reports on the funeral of Morteza Avini and Mohammad Yazdanparast, two repressive officials killed during the "Naghdi" operations.

It quoted news reports as saying that Avini and Yazdanparast, two Basiji officials in charge of "suppression and censorship," were killed in Khuzestan early morning Friday.

"In the course of a series of Mujahideen operations in six provinces, more than 150 repressive guards were killed, and seven guards bases and assembly centers and dozens of their vehicles were destroyed," it said.

"Facilities to jam Voice of Mujahed, the Mujahideen's national radio, were completely destroyed in an attack on a military communications base located on Gilan-Gharb heights," it added.

"According to reports from Iran, the support by residents of Gilan-Gharb and Salehabad, in western Iran province for attacks by the Mujahideen have further frightened the Guards Corps. The guards hastily set up 40 new wireless networks in the border region alone. It has also flown helicopters over Gilan-Gharb to detect the operation zone."

Lobster with a view in Mogadishu

By Sue Fleming
Reuters

MOGADISHU — Diners have to leave their guns outside but the restaurant a kilometre from Mogadishu's bombed-out green line serves lobster and overlooks a turquoise sea.

The Indian Ocean beach club in the anarchic Somali capital was closed during two years of civil war. Yassin Ga'al Muke reopened in January after U.S.-led troops arrived to restore order and stop the looting of food convoys.

"During the war, this building was looted brick by brick. But after the Americans arrived we decided it was time to open it again so we started rebuilding," he said.

In its heyday, the club on Lido beachfront was a popular haunt for Italian tourists and there were several restaurants on the marine parade. Nowadays, Mr. Muke has no competition.

The buildings on either side of the restaurant have been reduced to rubble by militia guns. There is still the occasional sound of gunfire, but Mr. Muke says this has

not affected business. "The restaurant is busy most days," said Mr. Muke, who makes between \$300 and \$400 a day as the restaurant's reputation spreads among thousands of expatriates who have flocked into Somalia as aid workers, diplomats or soldiers.

But the club is on the northern side of the green line, a maze of war-damaged streets that divide the territories of rival clan militias.

Most foreigners live in the city's south. Crossing the line in a car with southern numberplates can be tricky and dangerous.

A warning has been placed on the wall outside the club, ordering clients not to bring guns inside the complex. Mr. Muke says for the most part people have obeyed the rule.

"We haven't had any trouble here. People just want to get out, have a bit of fun and forget the war," Mr. Muke said.

One of the most popular items of the extensive menu is lobster, freshly daily from the sea. Boiled and stewed goat are also selling well. "I eat here a couple of times a week. It's about the

only restaurant left in town now," said one diner tucking into spaghetti laced with an elaborate fish sauce.

Deaths from Somalia's famine and civil war have fallen dramatically since the 23-nation force arrived in December.

But at least 300,000 people died in the famine that swept the country after rebels ousted dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991 and then turned on each other, plunging Somalia into chaos.

The arrival of the troops has helped to restore order to the capital, and some semblance of normal life.

Mr. Muke's restaurant is even providing an outside catering business.

"We provide a full service — food, glasses, waiters — anything you can think of," Mr. Muke said.

A discotheque, complete with generator-driven flashing lights, recently opened on Friday nights and the club even has a comedienne.

"People are sick of war. They want to laugh, like they did in previous years," said the in-house comic.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Territoires
18:30 Maguy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuaia
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Step by step
21:10 Forever Green
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature Film: "Bridman of Alcatraz"

PRAYER TIMES

04:45 Fajr
05:05 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:56 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:57 Maghreb
20:28 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellb, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630511, Tel. 625643
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713131
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654022
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691
Church of the Redeemer Tel. 638526

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Another rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Mia/Max. temp.
Amman 6/22
Aqaba 14/28
Deserts 4/25
Jordan Valley 11/26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings:

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Nassar 751144
Dr. Jameel Tarif 794710
Dr. Mohammad Al Nahawi 693925
Dr. Khaled Mu'addi 743500
Firas pharmacy 601912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 649455
Shamsani pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mounir Sharain (—)
Aqada pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Khalid Abu Hussein (—)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rasme Police 192, 631111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 628800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111
Jordan Television 773111

HOSPITALS

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815015
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 08-53200

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musheer Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 751112/6
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amn Al-Hayat 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532045, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:30 Dhahran (RJ)
08:15 Damascus (RJ)
10:15 Aden (RJ)
10:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:45 Rome (AZ)
18:30 Paris, Beirut (ME)
20:20 Beirut (ME)
23:59 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
07:15 Damascus (RJ)
08:00 Amman, New York (RJ)
09:20 Amsterdam, Vienna (RJ)
12:00 Vienna (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50 Madrid (RJ)
12:50 Geneva, London (RJ)
13:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:55 Damascus, Aden (RJ)
20:45 London (RJ)
22:00 Damascus (RJ)
22:15 Athens (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Jeddah (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)
17:45 Dubai (AZ)
07:00 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.
Apples 700/700
Bananas 680/680
Banana (Makassar) 620/620
Beans 900/700
Cabbage 90/60
Carrot 180/120
Cauliflower 160/100
Cucumbers (large) 120/85
Cucumbers (small) 220/160
Eggplant 340/260
Garlic 500/400
Gracfruit 240/180
Lemon 400/300
Marrow (large) 300/150
Marrow (small) 200/150
Mint 100
Onion (dry) 320/260
Onion (green) 280/200
Orange 700/600
Pepper (hot) 700/600
Pepper (sweet) 260/200
Potato 280/200
Tomato 280/150
Spinach 100/50



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday visits a patient at Zarqa Government Hospital (Petra photo)

Princess Basma inspects health, social services

ZARQA (Petra) — In pursuing her charity programme around the Kingdom, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday inspected services in Zarqa, Irbid and Karak governorates.

At Zarqa Government Hospital the Princess met with officials to discuss medical needs and improvements.

The hospital offers medical services to nearly 750,000 people in the Zarqa governorate and is in need of expansion and new equipment, particularly for kidney dialysis treatment, the Princess was told by Dr. Mamdouh Abbad and Zarqa Deputy Abdul Rahim Ekour.

The paediatric wing was one of the sections inspected by the Princess, who enquired about the patients' needs.

Deputy Abdul Qader Gamm and Deputy Salameh Ghweiri met with Princess Basma who is also the Honorary Chairperson of the Zarqa Governorate.

Muslims, Christians and women join party

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic movement, Du'aa, was licensed Monday becoming the first Islamic party to include women and Christians in its temporary executive committee.

Members of the Arab Democratic Islamic Movement (ADIM), Du'aa, told the Jordan Times that the movement is aimed mainly at reinforcing the relationship between Muslims and Christians.

The ADIM's 72 founders include 12 Christians and 11 women, out of which two women and two Christians are members in the movement's temporary executive committee.

"We aim at forming a national, Islamic front with progressive concepts that would implement the Islamic Sharia (Islamic law) in a modern manner," said Marwan Soudah, a Christian member of the ADIM executive committee.

Mr. Soudah, who criticised present Islamic movements which adopt regressive methods of analysis of the Holy Book

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince confers medal on Pakistani general

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday conferred upon Chief of Staff of the Pakistani Air Force General Farouq Fairouz Khan the military Ishtiaf Medal of the First Order. At a meeting with him and the accompanying delegation at the Royal Court, Prince Hassan also reviewed with the Pakistani general bilateral relations between Jordan and Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh, the chief of staff of the air force, and the King's advisor Ihsan Shurdon.

Jordan takes 2nd prize in Doha fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian pavilion at Qatar International Tours Fair won the second prize at the fair which concluded in Doha Sunday. The results of the fair were announced Monday by Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa at a ceremony organised to distribute awards to participants in the fair who come from 17 Arab and foreign countries. The first place was taken by the Qatari pavilion. Also the Royal Jordanian (RJ) folklore troupe won meritorical awards for its daily performances at the fair's theatre. The Jordanian pavilion was opened April 6 by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Yanal Hikmat.

University to employ students

AMMAN (Petra) — In an effort to provide financial support to university students, the Applied Sciences University Sunday took a decision allowing university students to work 15 hours a week against a payment of 600 fils per hour. Students will be working in the library, cafeteria, agricultural activities, maintenance and painting, shops and any other areas the university might deem fit.

Dentistry conference opens Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The 11th Jordanian dentists conference will open Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman under the motto "Developments in Clinical Dental Health." The three-day conference, organised by the Jordanian Dentists Association, will deal with issues related to dental surgeries, diseases and preventive medicine and the uses of laser in dentistry. Dentists from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Germany and the United Kingdom will participate in the conference.

Jordan-Oman panel to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — A Joint Jordanian-Omani committee will meet in Amman April 18 under the co-chairmanship of Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and his Omani counterpart Magboul Ben Ali Sultan. The committee will discuss in its several-day meetings scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Oman in industrial, commercial, and touristic fields.

20th Arab labour conference ends on optimistic note

By Saman Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 20th Arab Labour Conference, which officially ended Monday, depicted a sense of closeness between Arab countries not seen since the 1991 Gulf war. Most participants left the conference optimistic about achieving some form of economic cooperation between the Arab countries.

"The progress the conference achieved cannot be considered insignificant, bearing in mind that it seemed unattainable at a certain point in time," said Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, Jordan's Minister of Labour and head of the conference, told the closing session of the week-long meeting.

Although Mr. Kabariti described the conference as a "major success," he stressed that efforts must continue to be exerted in the same direction and open dialogue must be promoted as a way of communication.

Director General of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Baker Mahmoud Rasoul de-

scribed the atmosphere of the conference as "brotherly and honest."

The meetings reviewed topics regarding Arab labour strategy, working women and development, the freedom of unions in the Arab World, and the work environment including health and security.

Also discussed was the situation of the Palestinians living in the Israeli occupied territories.

The final statement of the conference included a call on Arab countries to lift restrictions on the transfer of funds collected from Palestinian expatriate workers as "liberation tax."

The "liberation tax" — five per cent of the annual earnings of the expatriates — used to be collected by the host governments and transferred to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until the Gulf crisis, which strained the PLO's relations with most of the oil-rich Gulf states.

The tax continued to be collected, but the host governments have made it difficult for the transfer of the funds to the PLO

by imposing restrictions.

"We call on all Arab governments to facilitate the transfer of money taken from salaries of Palestinians working in all Arab countries to support the PLO and the Palestinian uprising," said a statement issued late Sunday by the conference.

The Arab labour strategy was endorsed by the conference, and was described as a mutually agreeable formula to the three sides represented in the conference; the government sector, the private sector, and the workers.

One of the main points stressed during the meetings was the importance of granting workers incentives to encourage a higher level of production and efficiency.

The Arab labour strategy also emphasised the need to reduce high rates of unemployment that are present in many Arab countries and to allocate a percentage of the aid coming into the country for projects that increase employment.

Participants in the conference

insisted on decreasing unemployment among youth and the educated through training.

They, additionally, suggested providing jobs for them in special projects and financially supporting their small businesses.

The need for coordination between educational and training institutions on the one hand, and the needs of the current and future job markets on the other, was also highlighted as one of the points in the Arab labour strategy.

In addition, the strategy calls for providing employment opportunities first to one's own citizens, but encouraged the Arab countries to also employ Arab guest labour and to ease the restrictions imposed by the host count.

In a related vein and in keeping with the theme of reconciliation and cooperation, the Kuwaiti delegation announced its commitment to compensate all the Palestinian workers who lost their jobs during the Gulf crisis, referring to the thousands it expelled after the 1991 Gulf war.

The conference also decided to carry out studies on the labour and market situations and to increase cooperation in the institutions of the Arab Labour Organisation.

Increasing Arab investments in the Arab World was also stressed.

The Arab Labour Conference discussed a separate report entitled "The Arab Working Woman and Development," stressing the need to improve the conditions of working women in the Arab World.

The conference affirmed the need to research the status of working women and the difficulties they face in coping with the demands of work and family.

It called for holding a lecture that includes the government and private sector and labour to study how to improve the status of women at work, at home and in society.

In addition, the conference stressed the need to pay attention to the working Palestinian women who are resisting the

Israeli occupation forces and fulfilling their family duties.

The delegates also focused on improving the position of women who live in rural areas as well as those who are handicapped.

The conference appealed to the ALO to research the rights and freedoms of unions in the Arab World and requested that the Arab governments ratify the agreement regarding this issue.

The delegates, further, agreed to include a workshop in the 21st Arab Labour Conference to discuss this topic in detail.

Insisting on protecting the work environment from pollution and safety hazards, the delegates stated that it is the responsibility of the public and private sectors.

Moreover, they emphasised the need to establish research centres focusing on this issue.

Reviewing and ratifying the budget of the ALO and electing its officials were also main points on the agenda of the conference.

The 21st Arab Labour Conference will be held in Cairo, home of the ALO, in April, 1994.

Jordan, Belgium to hold trade talks

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan-Belgium Economic Commission is due to hold a four-day meeting in Amman early next month to review trade links and examine prospects for joint investment projects between Jordan and Belgium.

Belgian Ambassador to Jordan Pierre de Muelenaere told the Jordan Times that prospects for increasing the level of Belgian imports of Jordanian goods, particularly agricultural products, will be high on the agenda.

At present, Belgium and other European Community (EC) countries import limited quantities of Jordanian agricultural products, but it is possible for this situation to change as a result of mutual agreements," Mr. de Muelenaere said.

In return, Belgium is exporting at least JD 40 million worth of its national products to Jordan, according to 1992 figures, he said. He added that Belgium is selling Jordan electrical appliances, machinery, foodstuffs, textiles and pharmaceutical goods.

The Belgian side to the May meetings, to be led by Robert Urbain of the Ministry of External Trade, will meet with Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and senior ministry officials, said the ambassador.

Referring to Belgium's aid to Jordan, Mr. Muelenaere said that his country gave Jordan JD 4 million in cash and milk powder as a grant following the Gulf war and is making other contributions to the Jordanian economy through the Paris Club and the EC.

In 1991, Belgium announced a \$6.5 million loan to the Kingdom to help it overcome part of the economic hardship caused by the Gulf crisis.

The loan, granted on easy terms, has been used to finance imports from Belgium, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade sources.

Jordan's economy was hard hit as a result of the U.N.-imposed sanctions on Iraq, the Kingdom's main trading partner before the Gulf crisis.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad has already discussed with the Belgian ambassador arrangements for the Jordanian-Belgium joint commission meeting which will take place between May 3 and 6, according to Mr. Muelenaere.

Muslim Brotherhood bloc blasts UNRWA for 'conspiracy to liquidate Palestine problem'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the Lower House of Parliament Monday attacked what it said was a decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees to reduce its health, Medical Food and educational services to the Palestinian refugees.

"While the Palestinian people under Israeli rule continue to face brutal and inhuman treatment at the hands of the Israeli authorities, the Palestinians in the diaspora face an arbitrary action by UNRWA," the statement said adding that "the action was part of a conspiracy to liquidate the Palestine problem."

According to the statement UNRWA intends to reduce its services to the refugees and has decided not to grant its staff any increments on their wages.

This provides a clear sign on the part of the agency that it is doing its own share in liquidating the Palestine problem and disposing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian refugees, continued the statement.

The Muslim Brotherhood Bloc demanded that care and services to the refugees continue until the Palestinians have been repatriated because, it said, this is a right guaranteed by all U.N. resolutions particularly Resolution 194.

UNRWA said Sunday that it plans to levy token charges for health, and part of education services it offers to the refugees in Jordan and said the move was aimed at addressing the estimated \$28.5 million deficit in the agency's \$300 million budget for 1993.

Dennis Brown, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan Sunday said "there will not be any reduction of UNRWA services, but there will not be any increases either."

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc also criticised what it called statements by some elements among the Arab parties to the peace negotiations with Israel.

These statements, it said, call for trusting in Israeli's statements which claim that Israel was ready to address the Palestinian situation in an objective manner.

"We denounce such statements which only encourage the enemy to pursue its repressive and brutal measures, the statement said.

It said the parties making such statements seem to have forgotten that Israel has, to date disregarded all U.N. Security Council Resolutions, including Resolution 799 calling for the repatriation of the Palestinians expelled to southern Lebanon by Israel nearly five months ago.

In the same statement, the bloc

condemned Israel's decision to keep the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip sealed indefinitely as "a most brutal and repressive act against the Palestinian people."

We are addressing this statement to the Security Council and the United States government which has been bragging about its concern over human rights, said the statement.

"The United States," added the statement "has been claiming it supports democracy and freedom everywhere in the world, but it tends to close its ears to the cries of the repressed Muslims and Arabs everywhere."

Amman, Muscat to join in social development

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman Monday exchanged documents of understanding for collaborations in social development affairs.

The documents, which were exchanged by Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashaqbeh and Omani Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Ahmad Ben Mohammad Al Eisa, provide for cooperation between Muscat and Amman expertise, visits by officials concerned with promoting family services, and caring for the handicapped, orphaned children and the elderly.

The agreement also provides for Jordan to offer training to officials from the Omani Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

It entails exchanging Omani-Jordanian views on the creation of joint ventures pertaining to social services and the utilisation of human resources in social work.

Jordan will offer Oman five student scholarships for study at the Princess Rahma Social Affairs Training College in Allan near Amman.

The college offers training in social services and special education.

Sheikh Eisa, who attended the recently concluded Arab Labour Conference, held extensive talks with Dr. Mashaqbeh and toured a number of ministry affiliated organisations in Jordan.

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RJ delegates return from Beirut meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chief Executive Officer and President of the national air carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), Mahmood Jamal Balqez returned to Amman Monday after heading RJ's delegation to the meetings of the 26th session of the Arab Air Transport Federation which convened in Beirut recently.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi received during the meetings executive officers of the Arab airlines participating in the meetings and highlighted the importance of Arab carriers in developing the economies of Arab countries, pointing to Lebanon's focus on the air transport sector and tourism to return life in the country to normal.

The federation's general assembly discussed in its meetings its activities in 1992 and reports by its various committees.

It also discussed the latest international development in the air transport industry and called on Arab air carriers to prepare for international alliances and blocs.

Upon a recommendation by RJ, the general assembly decided to send a cable to the International Federation of Air Aviation to affirm that the international resolution on the status of the Arab Qalandia Airport in occupied Jerusalem would not be changed.

The federation's assembly also elected Adli Dajani as secretary general of the Arab Air Transport Federation for a third term.

It also agreed to move the general secretariat back to Beirut and to close the temporary offices which were used by it in Amman for the last six years.

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Ministry to help local councils better address residents' problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat urged heads of local councils to "create appropriate conditions in their regions for the activities of the local communities in addition to promoting municipal services."

Local councils in the towns and villages have an essential task of creating public gardens and promoting utilities for the benefit of their residents, said the minister in an address at the opening of a three-day seminar attended by municipal and village council heads.

The seminar was called to plan the creation of three centres in Amman, Irbid and Karak during

1993 to provide training courses for municipalities' staff.

In emphasising the role of local councils, the minister said many problems affecting the daily lives of people in the towns and villages should be addressed locally without resorting to the central department, i.e. the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

Therefore, he said, the ministry is planning to grant the local councils sufficient authority to enable them, through well-trained and skilled staff and adequate funds, to carry out this duty.

Dr. Tubeishat said any improvement in the councils' performance can only come through promoting the capabilities and

efficiency of their staff.

Several working papers on council services are to be reviewed at the seminar, which was organised in cooperation with the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB).

CVDB Director General Zuheir Khalifa addressed the opening session, saying that the meeting was intended to help the concerned councils identify their requirements and agree on training courses for their staff.

Councils have limited resources which should be utilised wisely by skillful staff, Dr. Khalifa added.

Heads of local councils as well as ministry officials were present at the session.



The Ministry of Youth Monday pledged to build a soccer stadium for the University of Jordan at the Physical Education Faculty. The pledge was contained in an agreement signed by Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat (second from left) and University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh (second from right) at Dr. Gharaibeh's office. The stadium, which will be owned by the

university, will also be used for sports matches organised by the national teams and first division clubs, according to arrangements to be drawn up by the various teams, the agreement stipulated. It also said the university will provide the ministry and the local teams with technical assistance under a programme still to be drafted by the two sides.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suha Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Re-creation" by Jordanian, French and Iraqi artists, inspired by a sculpture by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Abdullah, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samia Al Zarn and Adnan Yahya at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Lujain Al Aseel at Baladina Art Gallery.

FRENCH FILM WEEK

- ★ French film entitled "Jeannot L'interpide" at the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce at 7 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Director Mohammad Males's Arabic film "Al Layl"

(The Night) at the Philadelphia Cinema at 6 p.m. (the proceeds of the showing will benefit the Palestinian uprising).

LECTURES

- ★ The Goethe Institute today hosts an encounter between Jordanian and German architects. The encounter will include two lectures: 1) "Regensburg — a Historical Town in Modern Times" by Gunter Gebauer, construction director in Regensburg. 2) "Amman — Town Development and Architecture" (planning problems in general and refugee camps) by Prof. Eimar Dittmann, Aga Khan Professor of Architecture, and Dr. Taleb Rifa'i, Department of Architecture, both teaching at the University of Jordan. Both lectures will start at 8 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ Guitar and oud (fute) concert by the National Music Conservatory at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Co.

Invites

Contractors to participate in tender No. 3/93 for supply of spare parts for its Mercedes trucks type (L&S 2624) as per parts numbers and quantities attached with terms of tender.

Contractors wishing to bid for tender can obtain copies of tender documents from the company in Jabal Al Hussein — behind Ministry of Health — opposite Al Fadel Ibn Abbas Mosque — Amman for a non-refundable fee of JD 120,000 (one hundred and twenty Jordanian dinars) per a copy, bearing official documents proving their registration in records of trading agents.

Offers should be submitted not later than 2:30 p.m. (Jordan local time) on Saturday the 15th of May / 1993.

Chairman, General Manager
Hisham Asfour

Jordan Times

An Independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف اليومية السياسية العربية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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The buck cannot be passed

ON THE occasion of the World Health Day, the Ministry of Health and the Public Security Department have released shocking statistics on the number of fatalities and injuries on Jordanian arteries for the year 1992. We are now told that the number of Jordanians killed or injured due to traffic related accidents, has in fact increased by 3.7 per cent in the past year to reach 338 deaths and 10,676 injuries. What adds insult to injury is the explanation offered by our authorities. The Ministry of Health told a symposium convened Sunday for this purpose that the problem stems from lack of public awareness. No-one would quarrel with the important role of the public in curbing traffic mayhems and deaths. After all it is the public who are sitting behind the driver's wheel that causes most of the carnage on Jordanian streets and highways. But the problem does not rest there since the concerned authorities also bear the brunt of the responsibility for the rise in road accidents. It is the authorities that license drivers to roam the thoroughfares of the country. It is also the authorities that police that are entrusted with the enforcement of the strict driving rules prescribed by the police department. Has the concerned department been a bit more diligent in issuing driving permits to people, there would be a corresponding decrease in the number of fatalities and injuries in the country's streets and roads. Instead of paying attention to only the technical and mechanical aspects of operating a motor vehicle, it is high time that the other dimensions of driving habits are addressed. Curious and safe driving are something that cannot be measured by a simple driving test. The procedure for testing drivers needs to be made broader in scope in order to sift the prudent driver from the reckless ones. Periodic testing of drivers need to be introduced as well as a matter of routine. Serious traffic violations must entail stiffer punishments including the probability of suspending driving licences for certain periods. What is even more relevant to the quest for lower road accidents is the full application and enforcement of traffic signs; especially stop signs which are constantly contravened with impunity. On the top of all this street lanes are hardly respected and reckless trespasses of lane demarcation lines draw no notice from the guardians of driving rules. It is common knowledge that Jordanian drivers are by and large wild drivers with no respect whatsoever for the rights of the others, be they other cars or pedestrians walking the side walks. Traffic police do not seem perturbed by the law of the jungle that dominate the scene on avenues and streets of the country and seem content with observing the most benign parking violations. True, parking contravention bring money to the coffers of the state, but traffic-related deaths and injuries have also a heavy price tag attached to them and cost the national economy much more than the meagre money accumulated from parking fines. Before the public can be expected to acquire more awareness in the road problems, the Public Security Department personnel must also acquire awareness as to where to direct their attention in their drive for safer driving in the Kingdom and begin to target the real dimensions of the crisis instead of passing the buck to others.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WE CANNOT betray our Islamic faith and side with the United States against Iran, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily in comments on recent reports about the U.S.-led Western threats against Tehran. Those who choose to side with the United States should realise that they are helping its Israeli ally against the Arab and Islamic World, the paper stressed. Despite Iran's hostile stand vis-a-vis the Arabs in the past, we believe that Iran's military power is a power for the Arabs and for Islam and that Iran will not take long before realising that its past unholy alliance with the United States during the Gulf war was a grave blunder, added the paper. Siding with the West against Iraq was a crime on the part of Iran which had thought that it would receive an American reward for its part against the Iraqi people, the paper stressed. Nevertheless, any Western aggression on Iran would not find any Muslim in the same trench with the aggressors, it added. What the Iranian regime must do now to confront the conspiracy is to reaffirm its commitment to Islam and refuse to maintain its sanctions, starvation and genocide against the Iraqi people in the name of the United Nations, called the paper. Once the Western evil designs have been thwarted, said the paper, the so-called new world order, which is directed against the interests of Arabs and Muslims, will end for ever.

A columnist in Al Dustour commented on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's statement that Iraq is the only regional power that could stem the Iranian ambitions. Mr. Mubarak made the statement following his visit to the United States where he must have discussed the situation in the region with President Bill Clinton and other U.S. officials, said Saleh Al Qallab. By making this statement, said the writer, Mr. Mubarak is revealing indirectly that the Americans have now realised their grave blunder in destroying Iraq's military might which could easily retain the military balance in the whole Middle East region.

The View from Fourth Circle

A century of Arab awakening and reawakenings

By Rami G. Khouri

IT IS tempting to see most of the current strains in the inter-Arab political and economic order as the result of passing feuds and misunderstandings. Many around here would also like to think that the massive use of violence by governments and their political challengers throughout the region is an aberrant interlude between longer moments of security and calm. Rather than recall worlds that never were or dream of worlds that may never be, we would be better advised to recognise the full extent of the historical transformation taking place in the Middle East, and to try and guide it towards constructive ends rather than suppress it through the use of violence.

The political transformation taking place rationally in countries such as Jordan, Yemen, and (sort of) Sudan and Lebanon, and violently in countries such as Egypt, Algeria, Djibouti, Tunisia and others is the inevitable historical revenge of the modern Arab political experience. We are violent and unstable today because violence and instability were the hallmarks of our region for most of this century. Our region and our people are deeply seeking a more responsive and stable political order because what history dealt them this century has proven almost universally unacceptable and unworkable. We are involved in an Arab reawakening now because the Arab awakening in the early years of this century was never allowed to achieve its full national goals. The serious modern Arab distortions culminated in the deep national malaise the Arabs suffered in the 1980s, which triggered the current transformation of the Arab political/economic order through peaceful or violent means.

Highly centralised power elites that emerged in the Arab World in the middle of the twentieth century were a peculiar throwback to the feudal systems of medieval Europe, where power emanated from a central individual living in a well-protected castle on the hill, to whom all others in the fief paid homage. In describing the modern Arab state that he says was the real legacy of European imperialism, Hisham Sharabi notes in a recent book: "What made statism so natural to neopatriarchal society is the fact that the former was essentially nothing but the medieval sultanate in modern form. For the distinctive characteristic of statism, like that of the sultanate, is personalised (legal and extralegal) power, which finds expression in the coercive and suppressive apparatus of the state and derives its legitimacy not from some formal (constitutional or even traditional) source, but from the reality and possession of power. In this kind of polity the ordinary person is a passive entity, a subject not a citizen, with no human or civil rights or power to influence decisions concerning society as a whole."

Such an unnatural relationship between state and community could not endure without a backlash from the people who suffered its excesses. That backlash came in the 1980s, when the stalemate with Israel and the domestic consequences of the debt crisis suddenly magnified the weaknesses of most modern Arab states. They were unable to provide their people with security and stability, for the Middle East had become the world's most unstable, violent and militaristic region, perpetually wracked by internal strife, regional wars, and occasional battles with foreign powers, and riddled with refugees, emigrants, and desperate migrant workers escaping domestic wars, political oppression, or economic collapse.

The Arab people routinely lacked a means to express their national identity through dignified political participation, for by the mid-1980s, not a single Arab country had a successful domestic political system based on the consent of the governed, due process of law, formal accountability of public officials, or democratic pluralism.

A rising standard of living was no longer easily assumed, as economic regression, belt-tightening or total collapse impacted on almost every household, in the form of jobless men and women, lower family incomes, higher prices, and a generally lower standard of living for all but the very wealthy.

And, most Arabs had cause to doubt the expectation of a reasonably secure future for their children, as the region remained ravaged by rebellions and wars, domestic problems only seemed to worsen, Israel's challenge to the Arabs remained unanswered, prospects of pan-Arab integration appeared remote, and foreign commercial and military interests appeared to

strengthen their grip on Arab oil resources.

The young, historically audacious Arab states which the British and French had created in the 1920s had entered the 1980s as middle aged wrecks — battered, dazed, and directionless. States like Egypt, Algeria, and Somalia tested the waters of both superpower camps, and usually chose American money as their means of survival, but not always with success. Once grand centres of Arabism shopped around, and worked the superpowers. The oil producers of the Gulf totally threw national independence and identity to the wind, to the point where one of them, Kuwait, reflagged its oil tankers under American and British flags, and then hired the American and British armies to free it from the desperate and irate adventures of a neighbouring Arab power. Lebanon had degenerated into endless, senseless communal strife, fuelled by external arms and money from many other regional and international quarters. Sudan was engulfed in an intractable domestic war, while millions of its people starved. The Palestinians continued to wander and wait, vainly pleading

"The quest for a rational and stable Arab community is still in its early days. The signs of our contemporary violence and instability are not signs of a nation in the throes of death, but a nation in the throes of perpetual reaffirmation and revival — a people who value life, seeking liberty and dignity in their own ancient, ancestral communities."

their moral and legal case before an uncaring world, and a helpless Arab Nation. Libya had become almost totally politically marginalised by its erratic antics, and its desperate quest for unity with any willing Arab state — but when the Americans slapped it on the wrist with their air attack in 1986, it suddenly went very quiet. The rest of the North African states were concerned with their own economic survival and national identity; their people were still trying to salvage their past from the bewildering legacy of French colonialism, while the political power structures in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia entered the 1990s struggling to find a new balance between the freely expressed will of the people and the governments' obsession with security and order. Mauritania, like the rest of North Africa, was groping towards greater personal freedoms, political participation, and ethnic harmony. Iraq, one of the birthplaces of civilisation, culture, and national identity, closed out the decade in such a hapless, self-inflicted mess that it launched a foolhardy invasion of a small Arab neighbour. Somalia had degenerated into a poor excuse for civil rule and statehood.

The landscape of Arabism, and the promise of twentieth century liberation from Ottoman, British, French, and Italian control, had been transformed into a discordant, bloody heap of national confusion, and a harrowing, collective failure of statehood and identity. This was starkly brought home to researchers working with World Bank, United Nations, and other global statistics. In the late 1970s, Arab states started to drop out of the world tables one by one, because even the compilation of basic facts and figures within those countries became an impossible task. Lebanon was the first to disappear, its statistical data replaced by a massive glaring dash. Iraq followed next, then Sudan, and Somalia.

In the 1980s, the fiefs of Arabia were slowly coming to the end of their days. The great national commercial deal that had defined the Arab World since the 1920s — the people's allegiance and acquiescence in return for the government's provision of services and money-making opportunities — was breaking down; it was not working as it had when the region was flush with money that the power elites could distribute through their great concentric networks of dependents and guards within their individual fiefs.

The mighty constituency was proving fickle, and true to its mercantile soul. If the power structure of the fief's Great Leader could not keep its end of the bargain, and could not provide the people with security, identity, material development, and hope for the future, then the people would look for a new leader and a new power elite. Because the existing state systems were structurally incapable of providing physical sustenance, emotional composure, and political identity, by the 1980s the fiefs were faltering, the serfs had had enough.

By the 1980s, the Middle East region was forced to come to terms with three interrelated political realities: the fragility and general political failure of the modern Arab states, the lack of legitimacy and popular support for most incumbent governments, and rampant social and political discontent among the people of the region, especially Arabs and Iranians. The existing power structure provided no opportunity for the masses of ordinary people to release steam, and thereby to defuse the explosive combination of political frustration and economic disparity. Consequently, intense pressures built up within individual countries and finally triggered the defiant fearlessness and violence that characterises the current Arab reawakening. That fearlessness manifested itself in four main ways: Islamic fundamentalism, the overthrow of entrenched regimes, grassroots demands for democracy, human rights, and pluralism, and a willingness to fight and die for freedom from domestic subjugation, regional aggression, or foreign occupation.

In every Arab country that did not produce oil — ninety per cent of the Arab people — regimes were pressured, forced to reform, or overthrown. The most dramatic but not the only cases were the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981, the resistance of the Shi'ite Lebanese to Christian Lebanese political domination and to Israeli occupation in the decade after 1975, the overthrow of President Jaafar Numeiri in Sudan in 1986, the ousting of Tunisia's "president for life" Habib Bourguiba in 1987, the overthrow of President Mohammad Siad Barre of Somalia in 1991, the transition to democracy in Algeria in 1988 and in Jordan in 1989, the asserted but unsuccessful attempts to install a more democratic system in Iraq, the coup in South Yemen in 1986 that led to the unification and democratisation of the single Yemeni state in 1990, the domestic challenge to the Syrian government in 1978-1982, popular pressures in 1990-1991 that elicited local and/or multi-party presidential elections in Mauritania and Djibouti, the pro-democracy movement in Kuwait, and the constant challenge to Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party by an array of leftist and Islamic forces.

Most oil producers escaped this demand for change, because they could still live by fear and greed: they could use their enormous oil wealth to buy the complacency of their small populations, while keeping order through elaborate, well-financed security systems. But even the oil-producers felt the pressures of a citizenry uncomfortable with a life of material progress unmatched by political evolution. Therefore, most Gulf states have instituted consultative councils as a first step towards something more sensible in the realm of participatory politics.

These are all signs of a broader historical process of rebirth and renaissance amongst 230 million Arabs who are fighting desperately to salvage their identity and their community from the grips of those amongst them who would sell it or lease it to commercial and military powers from distant lands. In the first two decades of this century, people in the power centres of Europe and the Ottoman Empire saw the Arab awakening as a violent, threatening phenomenon that had to be stopped or controlled. In the last two decades of this century, people in Europe, the United States and Israel see our current Arab reawakening as violent and threatening. This should surprise nobody, for the task that our grandparents initiated has not been completed. The quest for a rational and stable Arab community is still in its early days. The signs of our contemporary violence and instability are not signs of a nation in the throes of death, but a nation in the throes of perpetual reaffirmation and revival — a people who value life, seeking liberty and dignity in their own ancient, ancestral communities.

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Violence strikes home at South Africa's whites

By David Tucker
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — White South Africans unmoved for years by the hacking, beating and burning to death of thousands of their black compatriots are suddenly near panic as gunmen begin to target their own women and children.

Nearly 8,000 South Africans have died violently in the three years since President F.W. de Klerk began dismantling apartheid and lifted the ban on opposition groups.

Until late last year most of the victims were black and the reaction of many white South Africans was largely indifference.

But the shootings of five whites including a young Johannesburg mother and two schoolchildren during a March weekend has changed indifference to outrage and fear.

"When my husband is at work I carry a panic button around with me all the time," said a white mother-of-two living in an affluent Johannesburg suburb. The mobile alarm links her to one of the dozens of armed security companies mushrooming throughout the country.

"When I go out in the car I keep the windows up, the doors locked and my wits about me. You never really rid yourself of the fear that someone is out to get you and your children," said the South African woman, who did not wish to be named.

Black opposition groups say South Africa's whites are simply getting a first bitter taste of the horrors endured for years by hundreds of thousands of blacks in violence-torn townships.

The whites-only government long reacted to black-on-black killings with appeals for calm and reason.

Mr. de Klerk voiced the whites' newly awakened fears when he recalled the Johannesburg killings and the slaughters of six black schoolchildren in February.

"This is barbaric and totally unacceptable in a civilised society," he told parliament.

His response was to call up at least 21,000 army reservists in a bid to make South Africa a safer place to live.

Psychologists say South Africans have become so inured to the endemic violence that their human values have been eroded.

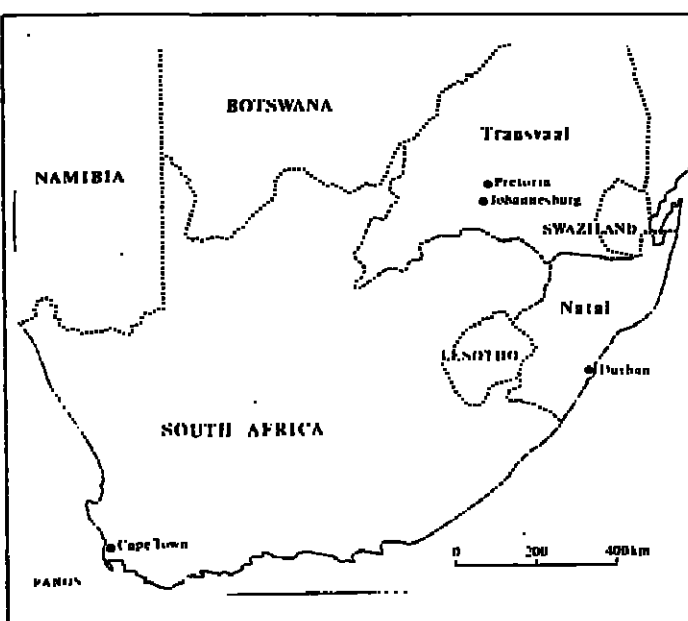
"There is so much death and violence here. We live in a culture, a climate of violence," said Jane Richardson, a department manager at the privately-run Liberty Life Childcare Centre in Johannesburg.

"In this country society does not value life very highly," she told Reuters.

The African National Congress (ANC) would argue that much of white South African society does not value black life.

ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus, complaining about the lack of official and private outrage after the February killings of the six black children, said the response would have been different had the victims been white.

Her predictions proved tragically accurate two weeks later when black gunmen killed Sandra Mitchell, her son Sean, 14, and 13-year-old Clare Silberbauer in an ambush near Johannesburg.



The driver of a hijacked car ferrying the gunmen around later told police their real target was a bus carrying white schoolchildren which they missed by a few minutes.

The largely white-controlled media worked itself into a frenzy after the killings.

Newspapers which hadn't bothered to send a photographer to the Natal black massacre site, carried extensive reports, interviews with survivors and as many pictures as could be packed into their pages.

Nearly two weeks on, the hunt for the killers is still front-page news.

The Commonwealth Observer Group said in February that South Africa was one of the most violent places on earth with a murder rate five times higher than the United States and 25 times higher than Britain and Canada.

"A child was killed on average nearly every two days in South Africa in 1992 and that is a terrible indictment on our society," said a Johannesburg-based human rights activist.

"Most of the victims were black, but does anyone recall their names?"

Hani death strains South Africa democracy process

By Rory Channing
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — The assassination of South African Communist Party leader Chris Hani puts major strains on the transition to democracy and fuels the potential for strife.

Violence erupted within hours of Mr. Hani's death, despite an unprecedented appeal for calm by black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela on national television.

Witnesses said that police opened fire without provocation at a ceremony for Mr. Hani in the black township of Soweto, killing three blacks.

Political analysts said Mr. Hani was probably the most popular leader among militant black township youth who had seen little benefit from the reform process initiated by President F.W. de Klerk three years ago.

"In a sense the goodwill is evaporating rapidly," University of Cape Town political scientist Robert Schrire said, referring to the initial euphoria when Mr. de Klerk freed Mr. Mandela and legalised black opposition groups.

Political analyst Willem Kleynhans said the assassination would further heat the emotions of young blacks angry at the slow pace of change — "and there are millions of them."

"Hani is now 100 times more a hero than before," he said, voicing concerns that the assassination would lead to mass protests fuelling the potential for strife and harming the peace process.

Many blacks may be worse off now than at the start of the reforms.

The country has undergone its longest recession in more than 80 years. The economy has shrunk for three years in a row and the ranks of jobless have swelled.

Zach de Beer, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, said the assassination would be seen by blacks as a vicious, hostile act by a white.

Police are interrogating a Pol-



Chris Hani

ish immigrant in connection with Mr. Hani's killing Saturday. Newspapers reported the suspect was linked to an extremist right-wing group.

"It's going to make everything more difficult," Mr. de Beer said. Mr. Hani, 50, led the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto Wesizwe (spears of the nation) before taking over as general secretary of the movement's Communist Party ally.

Mr. Schrire said that although Mr. Hani was seen by some to symbolise the radical left, he was acknowledged as a moderating influence by those involved in the negotiating process.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu said Mr. Hani had the most credibility of any political leader among township youth and his death was a severe blow to efforts to persuade radicals to renounce violence.

The other darling of the townships is Mr. Mandela's estranged wife Winnie, who has criticised the ANC leadership for taking an elitist stance in democracy negotiations and of ignoring the interests of grassroots blacks.

Mr. Hani built up a strong following in the townships as chief of staff of Umkhonto Wesizwe, an organisation young

blacks flocked to join since widespread anti-apartheid riots broke out in 1976.

But in recent weeks his message had been one of peace. He recommended the disbanding of "self-defence units" — armed youth groups set up by the ANC to protect their communities from the political violence in which 8,000 blacks have died in the last three years.

ANC leaders have since lost control of the units, many of which operate as criminal gangs preying on the communities they were supposed to protect.

Mr. Hani last week issued a rare public ANC condemnation of the armed struggle being waged by the more radical Pan Africanist Congress, saying war was no longer appropriate.

Prominent leaders including Archbishop Tutu, Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk all appealed to Mr. Hani's murder, saying violence would play into the hands of those who wanted democracy negotiations to fail.

As news of the assassination spread Saturday, demonstrations were held in townships in Cape Town, Johannesburg and the Eastern Cape Province.

Cabinet closer to sales tax law

(Continued from page 1)

various sectors have made considerable progress," said an official source. "All indications are that the tax could be introduced with effect from May 1, with the enactment of a temporary law."

The Constitution allows the implementation of legislation as temporary laws endorsed by a royal decree when Parliament is not in session. Such laws, however, are subject to Parliament approval as an when the legislative authority is convened.

Disputes over provisions of the legislation on sales tax are as intense between local importers and manufacturers as they are between the government and the private sector as a whole.

Local manufacturers, represented by the Chamber of Industry, are arguing that they will be handed down the heavier end of the deal since they will be facing severe competition from importers and making lesser profit under the law as drafted by the government.

They point out that the tax on imports will be calculated on the landed cost (cost, insurance and freight), while the levy on local products will be on the invoice value of products leaving the warehouse of the manufacturer.

As a remedy to address what they see as an imbalance, local manufacturers are calling on the government to levy the sales tax from importers on the basis of the total landed cost plus customs duties and related fees as well as an assumed profit on imported products.

"Our invoices to wholesale/retail outlets reflect the customs duties and other expenses as well as our profit margin," said the owner of a local manufacturing company. "The importers will pay the tax only on their landed cost, and this would give them a competitive edge in terms of what the ultimate consumer pays," he argued.

Another bone of contention between the government and the private sector was removed when the Ministry of Finance and Customs agreed that the draft law will not automatically empower the cabinet to implement the "second stage" of the tax — conversion of sales tax into value added tax (VAT).

Under the VAT system, as it is in force in the West, sales

tax is collected from the consumer at the sales point.

Such a conversion is expected in five to seven years in Jordan, but, under the compromise, it will be implemented only by the enactment of a new law.

"This will ensure that there will be no surprises for the trade and industry sector," said Dr. Fanek, the economist.

More fundamentally, Ali Dajani, advisor to the Chamber of Industry, believes that the introduction of sales tax "is untimely," particularly that it comes at a time when Jordan's manufacturing sector needs strengthening.

According to Mr. Dajani, "the whole system of consumption tax itself is not performing well and needs scrutiny to find where the flaws are."

"Our industries are in their infancy when compared with other countries," Mr. Dajani said. "Not only do they need protection of capital investment but also strong support to develop their export potential so that they can perform a strong role in building the economy."

Mr. Dajani argued that Jordanian industries have not performed up to the expected level of exports and, as such, the imposition of taxes in any form on local products in the local market will hurt them, particularly given some of the characteristics of Jordan's economy.

"Jordanian industries need a breathing space, having suffered two severe and consecutive blows since 1989," he said, referring to the 1988-1989 devaluation of the Jordanian dinar and the losses Jordan incurred as a result of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Indicators which show a strong performance of the economy, he said, are mostly based on activities in the construction sector and related industries rather than an overall reflection.

"The boom in the construction sector is a short-term phenomenon," he said. Mr. Dajani said Jordanian industries were also at a disadvantage resulting from several other factors, including the devaluation of the dinar which made imported raw materials costlier, additional freight and insurance charges incurred as a result of international inspection of Jordan-bound cargo in the Red Sea, and a recent hike in port charges at Adaba.

Under the VAT system, as it is in force in the West, sales

Leading archaeologist says Old Testament stories are fiction

By David Keys

ABRAHAM, Jacob, Moses, King David, and King Solomon in all his splendour, never existed, a 15-year study of archaeological evidence has concluded.

The study — by Professor Thomas Thompson, one of the world's foremost authorities on biblical archaeology — says that the first 10 books of the Old Testament are almost certainly fiction, written between 500 and 1,500 years after the events they purport to describe.

Professor Thompson's claims, outlined in a new book, *The Early History of the Israelite People*, are being taken seriously by scholars.

The British Museum's leading expert on the archaeology of the Holy Land, Jonathan Tubbs, said last week: "Professor Thompson may well be right in many of his arguments. His book is a work of tremendous scholarship. He has been meticulous in his research, and brave in expressing what many of us have thought intuitively for a long time but have been reticent in saying."

Professor Thompson — from Marquette University in Milwaukee — says that there is a complete absence of archaeological and historical evidence for many events portrayed in the Bible.

He added: "It is out of the question that Saul, David, and Solomon, as described as kings in the Bible, could have existed. I think the biblical accounts are wonderful stories, invented at the time when Jerusalem was part of the Persian Empire in the 5th Century BC."

The Israeli nation, he believes, was a creation of the Persian Empire and was formed around 450 BC. But the people who were moved to Jerusalem at that time were not the descendants of those who had been deported from the city after the Babylonian capture in 586 BC. They were descendants of Syrian, Philistine, Phoenician, Judean,

and other peoples who had also been forcibly deported to Babylon.

The first temple to Yahweh in Jerusalem was built at the instigation of the Persians, also in 450 BC — 500 years after the date suggested by the Bible. Before then, the main centre for the worship of Yahweh was in Samaria but, according to Professor Thompson, the religion had been in decline for several centuries. The Persian motive was to build up Jerusalem, with its newly-planted population, as a city of regional importance and to reduce Samaria's standing. It was the Persian empire's practice to build temples to important regional deities.

Professor Thompson's thesis was taken calmly last week by leading spokesmen for Judaism. Rabbi Stephen Howard, chairman of the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues Rabbinic Conference, said: "The Bible was written to explore the human relationship with God, not primarily as a history book. It is the wisdom, not the historicity, of the Bible which is of prime importance."

Rabbi Julian Jacobs, a member of Chief Rabbi's cabinet, said: "The Bible, being of divine origin, can stand on its own feet and does not require supportive evidence."

But the book — which is published by E.J. Brill in Leiden, the Netherlands — will offend some religious groups. Reverend Clive Calver, general director of the Evangelical Alliance, which claims 1.2 million supporters, said it was the beginning of "a new phase in attacks upon the authenticity of scripture" — The Independent.

Siege poses hardships for Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

security-wise, is a mistake politically and unbearably from a humane point of view," said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid.

Arab shot dead

An Israeli settler returning to his settlement from a Sunday evening out in Jerusalem chased three Palestinians he allegedly thought were trying to steal a car and shot one of them dead, police

and Israel radio said Monday. The radio said the gunman said he fired after one of the Palestinians pointed what he thought was a weapon at him.

The radio said the car did not belong to the Israeli. Neither the radio nor police said whether the dead man was armed.

The Israeli was arrested and his gun confiscated. Israel's police chief told Israelis in March after a wave of attacks by Palestinians on Jews that any Israeli licensed to carry a gun should do so.

Palestinians on final sprint to talks

(Continued from page 1)

"Rabin has forgotten he is dealing with a new model of Islamists at Marj Al Zohour," said Dr. Rantisi, a founder of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas. "He must get rid of his stubbornness."

In Amman, Hamas warned of "grave popular consequences" if the PLO authorised Palestinian delegates to resume the peace talks.

"This (participation) would mean that the Palestinian leadership would have turned its back on the people and pitted itself in a confrontation with them," Mohammad Nazzari, Hamas' Jordan representative, told Reuters.

Mr. Nazzari said Israel's offer to admit Mr. Hussein to the talks

would not solve the plight of the exiles.

The Israeli agreement to allow Mr. Hussein to join the negotiations has probably tipped the balance, but is only one element in a package expected to set the talks in motion April 20 after a four-month hiatus.

There are two other key elements in the package. U.S. government officials and diplomats say.

First, there is the promise that Israel will put forward substantial new proposals on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories that go some way towards meeting Palestinian concerns.

Second, there is the prospect of a much more active U.S. role in the talks.

Russians scrabble for tobacco in city refuse dump

By Fiona Fleck Reuter

MOSCOW — Mikhail Mokeyev wears a tattered pair of boots with holes in them and a mud-crust winter coat.

Once his winter clothes were new. Now they look like rags. These are all he has and all he expects to have. He will never have enough money to buy new clothes again, he says.

"I worked for 40 years in a car factory. I was a specialist. Now look at me. I am like a beggar," says 60-year-old Mokeyev clutching a bag tied with string, crammed with other people's rubbish. He had spent the whole day scrabbling for it on a rubbish dump at Mashkino outside the city.

"Our politicians can afford to buy cigarettes. But I have to come here for tobacco," he says bitterly.

Mr. Mokeyev is one of hundreds of people who come here to rummage in the rubbish for other people's cast-offs and collect tobacco dust dumped here daily by the Yava cigarette factory.

They say they cannot afford to buy Russian cigarettes any more at a minimum price of 60 roubles (eight U.S. cents) a pack. Here they can gather the dust and rubbish, sieve it out and glean grains of tobacco for nothing.

The dump already has a reputation all over Moscow and the surrounding regions as a place where people never go home empty-handed. People come from all over the Moscow region and cities beyond such as Tver 160 kilometres away.

A few are down-and-outs who live in Moscow's squalid railway stations. But most of them are members of a new class of impoverished Russians who have been reduced to destitution by inflation.

They are pensioners like Mr. Mokeyev or people on low state salaries whose incomes fall far behind the new high prices.

Mr. Mokeyev lives with his wife and sister in a two-room flat in Zelenograd, outside Moscow, on a state pension.

But his wife's pension of 12,000 roubles (\$16) a month, he says, is only enough to keep the family on a diet of bread and milk.

Mr. Mokeyev has been coming here regularly for a year. He smoked some of the tobacco himself, rolled in makeshift cigarettes in torn squares of newspaper. The rest he sells on the street where he makes about 3,000 roubles (\$4) a month.

He gives this to his daughter, a nurse — a traditionally badly-paid profession in Russia — who was abandoned by her husband and is struggling to bring up two children single-handed.

Workers from all over the former Soviet Union used to come to Mashkino to stay in holiday homes. Some say it was once one of the most beautiful places outside Moscow.

A couple of years ago a small firm bought the land and turned it into a private refuse dump, according to Foreman Anatoly Ivanov.

Today droves of people, hun-

dled in dust-ridden clothes, pick through the rubbish from dawn to sundown.

They poke at the stinking mounds of rubbish with sticks and blackened hands, fishing out rotten food products — for themselves, their families and their livestock.

They gather grimy jars and bottles — which can be returned for 10 to 20 roubles (two to four cents), packing away their catch in bulging canvas rucksacks.

Encircled by clouds of black smoke, they huddle around camp fires of smouldering garbage roasting mouldy sausages on a spit.

"I am ashamed for my country. Our politicians are just communists who have changed their colours and now they call themselves democrats," said Mr. Ivanov. "All they are interested in is lining their own pockets. Look at how these people live. Russians need so little to survive," he said. "When the tobacco arrives it's just like a battle."

At three o'clock in the afternoon an orange truck pulls up on the icy mud-track. Somebody cries: "The tobacco it's arrived." The truck lowers a large container full of cardboard boxes — which tumble on to the ground and break apart, sending grey brown clouds into the air.

The foreman gives the signal and a swarm of scavengers swoop down on the tobacco greedily pouring the dust into sacks and canvas rucksacks.

"It's like gold," said taxi-driver Yuri. "It's worth so much money."

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Sudan pins hopes on Libya

(Continued from page 1)

"There is a very specific and very intentional effort by donors to deny us financial assistance not only on bilateral bases but also to lean on international bodies not to help Sudan," said Mr. Hamdi. He said that until 1989, half of Sudan's budget was financed by foreign aid.

Sudan has been politically and economically isolated since the government of Omar Hassan Al Bashir assumed power in a military coup in 1989. Arab aid stopped flowing in the aftermath of the Gulf war and Western aid was halted due to charges of human rights abuses and support for "terrorism."

American embassy sources in Khartoum told the Jordan Times that the U.S. would not resume aid to Sudan until it returns to civil rule and stop "widespread human rights violations."

In 1990, Sudan started an economic restructuring programme with the announced objective of reaching self-sufficiency. The programme included tough austerity measures and the lifting of subsidies which sent prices soaring.

Enhancing the performance of the agricultural sector was the major target of the programme. Mr. Hamdi said its success was reflected in the 15 to 17 per cent expected growth of the gross domestic product.

But while the area of agriculture has been expanded from 11 million to 33 million acres, low productivity is still a major problem.

"Although we have expanded agriculture tremendously... productivity is still very low," Mr. Hamdi said.

Mr. Hamdi said logistic difficulties and an underdeveloped infrastructure were also obstructing the success of the programme.

And even though the lifting of subsidies and the floating of the Sudanese pound, which, Mr. Hamdi said, is still above its real value, have caused high inflation, severely hitting the standards of living, the minister said he was not worried about the social repercussions of the programme because the people are "very understanding."

He said Sudan was not keen on resorting to subsidies to ease the impact of the programme but might apply it selectively to support certain sectors of the economy.

"Subsidies killed the agriculture sector which represents 40 per cent of the GDP and 80 per cent of the population," he said. "Either this or the country would have died," he said.

He said it was unfair to subsidise 20 per cent of the population, the urban community, at the expense of the other 80 per cent. City dwellers, who traditionally benefitted from the subsidies, were the worst hit by the lifting of subsidies since salary increase did not correspond with inflation.

Mr. Hamdi added that the government expects to bring inflation from 87 per cent to 59 per cent by the end of the current fiscal year in June through managing expenditure and putting a ceiling to military expenditure which amounted to 20 billion Sudanese pounds (about \$150 million) in 1992 compared to seven billion (about \$20 million) in 1991.

He said Sudan had no choice but to proceed with its economic restructuring programme despite the lack of international support.

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EUROPEAN BASKETBALL FINALS

Strict security in bid to avoid repeat violence

ATHENS (R) — Strict security will be in force at the European Clubs' Basketball Championship finals in a bid to avoid a repeat of the violence that shamed the sport's last showpiece event.

Two Turkish players were attacked and injured in last month's Cup Winners' Cup final in Turin where Greek fans invaded the court after Aris Salonika beat SK Istanbul.

Aris have since been fined and banned from European competition for a year.

But with neighbours Paok Salonika reaching the final four of the champions' competition starting Tuesday, there are fears of more trouble from the volatile Greek home crowd.

Real Madrid's Arvidas Sabonis, one of the tournament stars, told the Spanish newspaper El Mundo: "I'm worried that there may be real war in Athens."

Sabonis, a 2.2 metres tall Lithuanian, who has won Olympic gold and bronze medals, added: "I just hope no one goes for my head with a hammer. With my height, I am an easy target."

"The international federation (FIBA) don't do much about it... and won't until a player gets killed."

Munich-based FIBA warned the Greek Federation after the disgraceful scenes in Turin about their responsibility to ensure a trouble-free event in Athens.

All fans entering the 16,000 capacity "peace and friendship" stadium will be body-searched and stripped of anything which

can be thrown on the court, particularly bottles, coins lighters and even cigarette packs. Around 1,000 specially trained police will be on duty.

About 6,000 pack fans are expected for Tuesday's semifinals when the Greek club play Italy's Benetton Treviso and Real Madrid meet Limoges of France.

Paok's allocation of tickets has been sold out for days. Club spokesman Makis Voitsides said: "We have to watch where the tickets go because we fear fan trouble. We know the trouble-makers and will not let them undermine Paok's future."

Greek fans have a poor record and the clubs pay for it in a country where basketball is a huge passion.

Levingston is the Greek hero

Cliff Levingston, a hero in Salonika, bids to add to his NBA glories in this week's European Clubs' Championship final in Athens.

"The fans love him. He is a steady scorer, a top rebounder and a great character. Paok's hopes of the title depend a great deal on Levingston's performance," Paok spokesman Makis Voitsides said.

The 32-year-old 2.04-metre forward, who won NBA titles with the Chicago Bulls in 1991 and 1992, signed a \$2.2 million two-year contract with Salonika last year.

"The Bulls wanted to keep me but with less money. Paok gave me more money but also

targets," Levingston said recently.

He averaged 19 points in Paok's European matches this season and is considered one of the best rebounders in Europe.

His clash with Benetton Treviso's Toni Kukoc Tuesday will be a key factor in deciding who goes into Thursday's final.

"Levingston and Kukoc will have some terrific fights under the basket. The winner will probably meet Real Madrid who we believe will easily overcome Limoges," Voitsides said.

Paok will also rely on shooting guard Branislav Prelevic.

Failure not in Kukoc vocabulary

Run down the list of Toni Kukoc's basketball achievements and what you see is a near unblemished record.

If the Croat does not lead Benetton Treviso to the European Champion Clubs' title in Athens this week, it will be virtually the first time a major basketball title has eluded him.

The 23-year-old helped Yugoslavia to the World Championship in 1990 and for three years until 1991 led his club team Jugoplastika Split to three consecutive European club titles.

Whether he plays forward, centre or point guard, the gangly, 2.08-metre Kukoc is the focus and driving force of any team.

In the three-game quarter-final against Pesaro Kukoc scored an astonishing 95 points.

With the basketball world, led by NBA champions Chicago Bulls, clamouring for his services last season, Kukoc chose to sign a six-year \$16 million contract with Treviso.

Benetton's success since Kukoc's arrival has been a double-edged sword for team owner Gilberto Benetton because it has only increased Chicago's interest.

The Bulls' general manager Jerry Krause has been on the phone regularly to Kukoc, trying to coax him over to Chicago.

But Kukoc says: "I'm looking to win something more with Benetton. That's my main goal at the moment."

Kukoc said the main reason he did not join Chicago last season — he was drafted by the Bulls in 1991 — was because of the outbreak of war in his home country.

"I was very preoccupied by that," he said. "My family is still living in Split and I wanted to be near them."

Kijoc and his team mates leave for Athens Monday for the most important few days in Treviso's history. The Italian club play Paok Salonika Tuesday for a place in Thursday's final.

Kukoc has witnessed first-hand the fanaticism of Greek fans when he played against Salonika for Jugoplastika Split.

"The first time I played against Salonika it was the most pressure I've ever felt under," he said. "You're playing not only against the guys on the court but against the 9,000 fans screaming at you in the gym."



Paolo Maldini (left) of AC Milan and teammate Frank Rijkaard (right) tussle for the ball with Inter's Ruben Sosa during their Italian League match (AFP photo)

real likelihood of them conceding the title.

Cup Winners' Cup semifinalists Parma moved third, four points behind Inter, after beating Cagliari 3-1 at home as Lazio dropped a point in a 1-1 home draw with relegation strugglers Foggia.

Bayern Munich rediscovered their winning touch to pull clear at the top of the German League with a 2-0 victory over title rivals Borussia Dortmund.

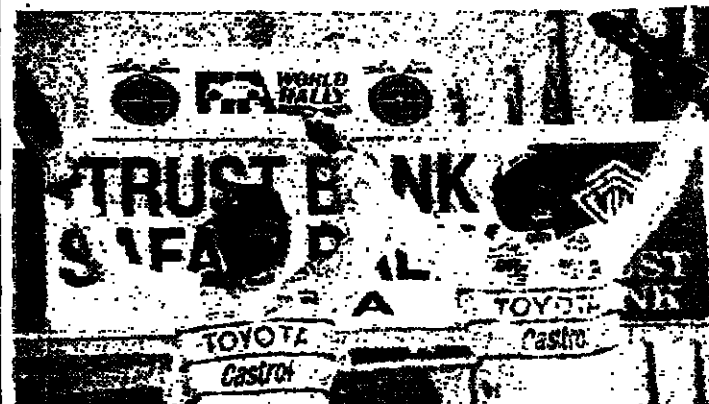
Bayern, who had squandered a four-point lead with defeats in their last two matches, moved two points clear as leading rivals Werder Bremen suffered a 3-0 defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt,

who moved up to third place.

Dutch midfielder Jan Wouters scored Bayern's first goal with a 25-metre shot and German international Olaf Thon made it 2-0 with a penalty 10 minutes from time.

In France, Marseille stayed top with a comfortable 2-0 home win over Sochaux to maintain their two-point lead as the top four teams all won.

Croatian Alen Boksic and German Rudi Voeller scored Marseille's goals while Jerome Grunok scored twice in Monaco's 4-2 victory over Caen to keep them second.



Finland's Juha Kankkunen (right) and co-driver Juha Piironen, winners of the 41st Kenya Safari Rally, jubilate after finishing the 3,778 kilometre route (AFP photo)

Kankkunen seals 3rd Safari victory

NAIROBI (AP) — Juha Kankkunen of Finland won the Safari Rally Monday to become the fourth driver to win the 41-year-old endurance test three times.

Kankkunen, driving a Toyota Celica turbo 4wd, had 3 hours, 54 minutes in penalty points. Compatriot and teammate Markku Alen, also in a Toyota, had 4 hours, 3 minutes and Kenya's Ian Duncan, also in a Toyota, 5 hours, 24 minutes.

Kankkunen won the Safari Rally in 1985 and 1991. Shekhar Mehta of Kenya won the race four times and Bjorn Waldegard of Sweden and Joginder Singh of

Kenya won three times.

This year's 3,778-kilometre (2,342-mile) 342-mile route was divided into five legs, each split into sectors. Competitors were required to cover each sector within a specified time, and lost a point for every minute they were late. Stragglers were time barred. The winner was the driver with the least penalty points.

Only 17 of the 44 starters finished the race. The rest were either time barred or withdrew with mechanical problems.

The contest is fourth of 13 in World Championship rallies and counts for the manufacturers and drivers' awards.

Sanchez Vicario beats Sabatini in final

FLORIDA (R) — Top-seeded Arantza Sanchez Vicario, the hottest player on the women's circuit, beat two-time defending champion Gabriela Sabatini 6-2 5-7 6-2 Sunday in the final of the \$375,000 Bausch Lomb Tennis Championships.

"I know I'm playing very well," said Sanchez Vicario after picking up her 10th career title.

"For sure, the players know that I'm in my best shape and hitting the ball very well. I'm number three, I'm strong and I'm consistent," the Spaniard added.

Sanchez Vicario trails fifth-ranked Sabatini 11-7 in Career meetings, but has now won their last four encounters.

The two-hour 45-minute final was a wonderful display of tennis on both sides of the net.

"I moved the ball very well, changed the pace, hit a lot of drop shots and went to the net," said Sanchez Vicario. "She didn't know what I was going to do."

After Sabatini, the second seed, won the first two games, Sanchez Vicario took control, winning the next eight for a 6-2 2-0 lead.

Then Sabatini started to get more aggressive. The Argentine broke serve in the sixth and 12th game to push the match two to a third set.

Despite slipping in the first game of the third set and needing a three-minute time-out to retape her right ankle, which she had injured earlier in the week, Sanchez Vicario was the fitter player at the end.

"If I was a little bit more strong I could've won the match," said Sabatini. "I was a little tired and

it's hard to try and attack when your legs are not the same."

Usually more comfortable at the baseline in a slugfest, Sanchez Vicario ventured to the net frequently in the final set and broke serve in the fifth and seventh games.

The \$75,000 victory was her first at this event and marked her fourth successive appearance in a final.

She successfully defended her Lipton Championships title in key Biscayne, Florida, last month with a win over second-ranked Steffi Graf.

Graf was responsible for both her recent final losses — at the Virginia Slims of Florida in March and the family circle Magazine Cup last week.

Sabatini was gunning for her first title since winning the 1992 Italian Open last May, she lost to Martina Navratilova in her only other final appearance since Italy at fielderstad, Germany in October.

She is not concerned she has not visited the winner's circle in almost a year.

"I'm not thinking about that," said Sabatini, who took home \$30,000. "I'm not worried. I just need to play these kinds of matches and win them."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ONE TRICK TOO MANY

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 3
♥ A Q J 10 6 4
♦ 9
♣ A K 8

WEST
♠ J 10 8
♥ 9 8
♦ K 5 2
♣ Q 6 4 3

EAST
♠ 6 2
♥ K 7 3 2
♦ J 10 8 4
♣ J 10 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 5 4
♥ 5
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ 9 7 5

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

It would seem that 12 tricks in spades present no problem on this deal from a rubber bridge game. However, a clever deceptive play by East led declarer astray.

Note that North felt no compunction to insist on playing in the good six-card heart suit. With an eight-card spade fit confirmed, North cue-bid the ace of clubs and bounced into slam when South cooperated

with a diamond cue-bid.

West led a club, taken in the dummy. Trumps were drawn in three rounds, ending in hand. A heart was led to the ten. East ducked smoothly! Declarer cashed the ace of hearts, discarding a diamond, and continued with the queen. When East followed with a low heart, only one heart was outstanding, the king, and declarer "knew" the monarch was with West. Declarer ruffed confidently, and received a mortal blow when West discarded a diamond. Since declarer could no longer set up and use the long hearts, South crossed to the remaining high club and tried the diamond finesse in an effort to limit the damage to down one. No luck.

There might be some argument in support of South's decision to play for the overtrick had this been a duplicate pair event. However, at rubber bridge declarer had made an egregious blunder. All declarer had to do was discard on the third heart instead of ruffing. If West held the king, there would be three good hearts in dummy to provide parking places for declarer's remaining minor-suit losers. Then East's bit of chicanery would have gone for naught, but what a small price to pay to defeat a vulnerable slam!

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY APRIL 13, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It could turn out to be a very adverse day and evening if you make those sarcastic and unpleasant comments that come to mind. Realize that others, less fortunate, are being pressured by planetary positions.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can dash from one interest or person to another and not find satisfaction in any of this but instead finish activities already begun by you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your mind now wanders from one way to have more of this world goods to another and you can make a big error by making any commitments now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Promises made by anyone in the outside world is most likely to be broken or changed and not for the better so sidestep seeing outsider today.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Private worries that obsess you should now be kept to yourself for you lose companions if you try to unload your problems upon them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are too likely to expect friends and acquaintances to put themselves out to do for you but they are apt to feel the same about you in terms of favour.

VIROGO: (August 22 to September 22) In a dispute between an out-

er and a partner keep out of the way of fire or you as a potential peacemaker can wind up as a casualty instead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You find that the delights which appeal to you have too big a price tag connected with them so engage in pleasures that are simple and inexpensive.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are sorely tempted to take some risk now but it would not be worth your while since the cards are now stacked against you today and tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Lack of accord between a partner and a family member can engulf you in a tense position so try to be absent if this looks as though taking place.

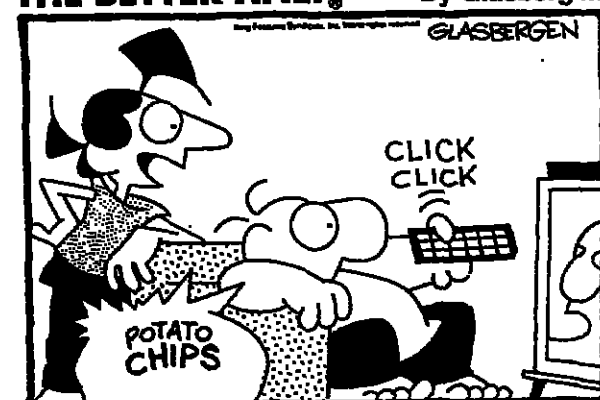
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Fellow associates do not feel you have to leave a task for some errand or other outside interest that could cause trouble if you do so.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have some practical matters to attend to but use this day first to get into the creative aspects whatever may be of concern to you.

PISCES: (Feb. 20 to March 20) Your personal desires and the wishes of your family are far apart today but to maintain harmony at home first carry through with family member.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"Click-click-click! See? I can be just as interesting as that stupid remote control! Click-click..."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED-WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAREY

GHUDO

DAHVEL

NAITOR

WHAT A JOKE TOLD BY THE ROOFER MIGHT BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: "CANINE"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAWL NEWSY PLURAL BECKON

Answer: What the chef got when he refused to serve fresh vegetables — "CANNED"

THE Daily Crossword

by Harry Bryan

ACROSS

1 Elevator cars

6 By Leguier

9 Money owed

13 Put in good humor

14 Toss mess

15 Valley

16 Kind of blanket

17 Kind of fastener

18 Clairvoyant letters

20 Murmuring dump

22 Coat or Marvin

23 The Hunter

25 Most ineffectual

27 The — (NY area)

29 Spiritualist seer

31 "Hawkeye"

32 Roman patriot

34 Aquatic plants

35 Debra machines

36 Once called

61 Mild expletive

63 Lab heaters

65 — trap for

66 Coal measures

67 Pitchers

68 River in France

69 Scandinavia

DOWN

1 Arrived

2 Anno —, am

3 Pinpoint charge

4 Based: abbr.

5 Atmosphere at the beach

6 Major and

7 Bank deal

8 African antelope

9 White House monogram

10 Bold or double

11 Song genre

12 Belief

14 Org.

15 Ocean beast

24 Practical one

26 A filmfare

27 Cutting remark

28 Broad spread

29 Harsh

30 Accustomed

33 Winklike

35 Arms merchant

36 Before: pref.

37 "— of Eden"

40 Moving about

43 Muffin

47 Ester of an acid

48 Invisable

49 Having great bulk

51 Indies

52 Fr. Income

53 Layers

56 Excited

57 Slough

59 Corn units

60 Abstract being

62 Scull

64 Pair

Man. United, Benfica win against the odds

LONDON (R) — Benfica and Manchester United both triumphed against the odds to enhance their chances of winning their respective soccer championships at the weekend.

And in Spain a shock loss by Barcelona allowed Real Madrid to draw level on points at the top of the league standings.

Benfica joined Portuguese League leaders Porto at the top with a 3-2 victory at Boavista despite having two players sent off, including their goalkeeper.

Manchester United went top of the English Premier League with a dramatic 2-1 win over Cup final finalists Sheffield Wednesday as skipper Steve Bruce scored twice in the dying minutes — the winner coming five minutes into injury time.

The two old giants of European soccer, who met in the 1986 European Cup Final, were helped in their quest for domestic honours with their nearest rivals both held to 0-0 home draws.

Defending Portuguese champions Porto, who have a game in hand over Benfica but travel to their rivals' stadium of light next weekend, were held at home by Sporting Lisbon and lead Benfica by virtue of one extra goal

scored. Villa drew 0-0 with Coventry.

Benfica had defender Helder Cristovao sent off for two bookable offences and goalkeeper Adelino Neno dismissed in the 74th minute for bringing down Boavista's Brazilian striker Nelson Bertulazzi who was on the verge of scoring.

Boavista, who had defender Antonio Caetano sent off in the 27th minute for two yellow cards, scored from the ensuing penalty to make it 3-2.

Champions' Barcelona's two-point lead in Spain was wiped out by Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Athletic Bilbao — only their third of the season.

S. African police seize suspected hit list after killing of Hani

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Police found a suspected "hit list" of politicians and several guns in the home of a white man charged with killing top black leader Chris Hani.

Police Brig. Frans Malherbe said Monday the leader of the South African Communist Party was shot with a pistol stolen by right-wing white extremists from a military installation in 1990.

Mr. Hani's killing outside his home Saturday triggered fears of an angry backlash that could threaten crucial talks between black and white leaders on ending apartheid.

But government and African National Congress (ANC) leaders said they were determined to press ahead with talks. Leaders on both sides called for calm despite scattered outbreaks of violence following the killing.

Angry blacks at a protest in the Katlehong black township Monday burned a truck, threw stones and fired shots at journalists, hitting a car. No injuries were reported.

Two whites were burned to death by a black crowd and a third had part of his tongue cut out in a black township outside Cape Town Sunday.

But police at the Lwandle township said Monday they were unsure if the attacks stemmed from the Hani killing. They reported the area calm overnight and Monday.

In a separate incident Sunday, the ANC accused police of firing on a small memorial service for Mr. Hani in Soweto, near Johannesburg, killing one person. Police Maj. Henriette Bester denied it was a memorial service and said officers fired on the crowd after people began throwing stones and shooting at them.

Police arrested Janusz Jakub



A South African youth walks away from a burning barricade in a traditionally white suburb of Cape town. He was part of a group of students who were

reportedly protesting the assassination Saturday of former South African Communist Party leader Chris Hani (AFP photo)

Wallus, 40, an immigrant from Poland shortly after Mr. Hani's killing. A pistol found in Mr. Wallus' car was identified as the alleged murder weapon, police said.

The pistol was part of a cache of weapons stolen by right wing extremists from South African Air Force Headquarters in Pretoria in 1990, police said. Several weapons were found in Mr. Wallus' apartment, they said.

Police said a list of politicians and addresses was found in Mr. Wallus' apartment, but refused to give any of the names. People on

the list had been warned and offered police protection.

"This list includes the names of political leaders of various parties and organisations, but also of people not active in politics," a police statement said.

South African news reports have linked Mr. Wallus to neo-Nazi groups, but police say they cannot confirm the reports. A white supremacist group, the World Apartheid Movement, said it would provide Mr. Wallus with legal aid.

Mr. Wallus was a fanatical anti-Communist who left Poland be-

cause of his opposition to the Communist government, according to reports. He was described as "a loner."

Small white extremist groups say they are preparing for "a race war" rather than accept a multi-racial democracy. But the extreme right has rarely carried out any attacks despite incessant rhetoric.

Mr. Hani, 50, was perhaps the most popular ANC official after its president, Nelson Mandela. Many blacks revered him for his militant opposition to white minority rule.

NATO moves to stop Serb warplanes; Serbs defiant

SARAJEVO (AP) — NATO warplanes took to the skies Monday to enforce a U.N. ban on Serbian military flights over war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

More than 50 U.S., French and Dutch fighters were deployed around the region to put Operation Deny Flight into effect. The mission began at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) and is the first time NATO has projected its might beyond alliance territory since it was founded in 1949.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) officials said their warplanes would challenge violators and order them back home. A shoot-down would be allowed only as a last resort.

Bosnian Serb Commander Gen. Ratko Mladic said the Western alliance had "no chance" of stopping his troops with the flight ban. He accused NATO allies of enforcing the ban as a prelude to using air power directly against the Serbs.

AWACS surveillance planes with multi-national crews are monitoring the airspace over Bosnia to sort out sorties by Yugoslavia's Serb-dominated military. The AWACS and some of the NATO fighter jets are being coordinated from an airbase in Vicenza, Italy, where they took off Monday morning. Other fighter jets are on in northeast Italy or on aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea.

Serbs have flown hundreds of sorties over Bosnia since the United Nations forbade the flights in October, according to U.N. reports. The flights have supported ethnic Serbs who rebelled against Bosnia's Muslim-led government a year ago when Bosnia's Muslim and ethnic Croat population voted to secede from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

Most of the Serb violations been helicopters and low-flying

propeller planes.

At least 134,000 people, and as many as 200,000, have been reported killed or missing since the war broke out. More than 2 million Bosnians have been turned into refugees, many of them Muslims routed from their homes in the so-called "ethnic cleansing" campaign of killing, rape and intimidation used to purge areas of different ethnic groups.

Gen. Mladic and a top Croatian general both said that enforcement of the flight ban will have little effect.

Serbs have used mainly land forces to capture 70 per cent of Bosnia in the last year and have been reported using low-flying helicopters over short distances to transport troops.

U.S. Navy Admiral Mike Boorda said Monday that low clouds over Bosnia's mountainous terrain could also complicate the mission. He spoke at a military briefing in Vicenza.

Serbs have rejected an international peace that would partition Bosnia into 10 semi-autonomous provinces along mainly ethnic lines because it would end their plans to unite conquered Bosnian and Croatian lands with Serbia proper.

Meanwhile, President Bill Clinton's envoy to former Yugoslavia, Reginald Bartholomew, left Zagreb, Croatia, for Sarajevo for the first of three days of talks with Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian leaders.

Leaving Zagreb, he told the Associated Press he had a "clear objective to help the international effort to bring this crisis, this conflict to a settlement, and to encourage the Serbs to come to terms."

Angered by the NATO patrols and last week's discovery of ammunition hidden in a U.N. aid convoy, Serbs have shown in-

creasing disdain for international peace efforts.

U.N. officials suspended the humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo Saturday after Serbs shifted anti-aircraft guns to put them within range of the airport. They also cancelled a land convoy Monday to aid Serb-besieged Muslims in Srebrenica.

U.S. Captain Bill Karaktin, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers in Sarajevo, said Srebrenica had been "very quiet" since Sunday evening.

But a Bosnian government statement said continued fighting across Bosnia meant military commander General Sefer Halilovic would not attend peace talks Monday requested by Gen. Mladic.

Capt. Karaktin said the United Nations were still preparing for the talks at Sarajevo Airport because a letter from Gen. Halilovic did not explicitly say the Bosnian side would not attend.

In a telephone interview with the AP Sunday, Gen. Mladic claimed that NATO has identified Serb ground positions as potential targets.

"If events take a turn for the worse, NATO plans to bring in 450 to 500 warplanes as reinforcements," he said, quoting what he claimed were "sources close to NATO."

Asked whether NATO jets could force Serbs to change tactics, Gen. Mladic said: "they have no chance."

Gen. Antun Tus, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's top military advisor, told Croatian radio it was too late for the no-fly zone to have any military effect.

"There will be more political than military results," Gen. Tus said. "In Bosnia-Herzegovina, planes are not so important.... This is the artillery and mortar war."

Tycoon wins presidency in south Russian area

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A young tycoon who runs business ventures ranging from gambling to publishing has been swept to power as president of the southern Russian Republic of Kalmykia. Election officials there said Monday.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov got 65 per cent of the votes cast, a Central Election Commission spokesman said by telephone from the capital Elista.

Mr. Ilyumzhinov, 31, emerged far ahead of his closest rival, Afghan war veteran Major-General Valery Ochirov, to take power in Kalmykia, a farming republic of 330,000 people on the Caspian Sea.

Gen. Ochirov, 41, polled 29 per cent of the vote. A third candidate, former Communist Party official Vladimir Bambayev, got a mere 1.5 per cent.

"I am not a Socialist, I am not a Communist, I am not a democrat. I am a capitalist," Mr. Ilyumzhinov said in a newspaper interview last week.

In his election campaign he vowed to introduce "economic dictatorship" to restore prosperity to the region which lies about 1,000 kilometres south of Moscow.

Mr. Ilyumzhinov threatened tough action against bureaucrats and a ban on political rallies and strikes.

Meanwhile, two weeks before a nationwide vote of confidence in President Boris Yeltsin, his backers appear loosely organised, and neither he nor his critics can count on a decisive victory.

An informal Associated Press survey of about 50 politicians and newspaper editors nationwide found that support for Mr. Yeltsin and his market reforms varied widely from place to place. It also found widespread dissatisfaction with representatives he has appointed in 66 regions, and that this discontent was costing him votes.

Mr. Yeltsin aides, speaking privately, acknowledged they were worried by recent polls that showed 43 per cent of the electorate would vote for him, and 19 per cent against him.

The president, conceding that an outright victory will be hard, has urged the 106 million Russian voters to vote "yes" on all four questions placed on the referendum by the Communist-dominated Congress of People's Deputies.

Mr. Yeltsin had initially proposed the referendum as a way to end his power struggle with the lawmakers.

But the legislature, which narrowly failed in its attempt to oust Mr. Yeltsin last month, changed the referendum so the president could not win simply on the basis of his personal popularity.

Former diplomat formally engaged to Japan prince

TOKYO (R) — Former career diplomat Masako Owada became officially engaged to Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito Monday in a brief traditional ceremony televised live as part of a growing media frenzy.

Ms. Owada, clad in a pale golden yellow kimono, received an envoy from the imperial palace in the living room of her home in an expensive area of Tokyo together with her parents. Her father is vice foreign minister, the ministry's top bureaucrat.

The envoy said he had been sent to conduct the engagement ceremony by the emperor and empress.

Gifts from the palace, delivered that morning, were on display on a low table in front of an auspicious golden screen which was put up for the occasion.

The envoy then described the gifts — half a dozen bottles of Japanese sake, five rolls of silk dress material and a pair of cooked sea breams together weighing about 10 kilograms.

More than 600 California National Guard troops waited in a dozen armoured cars across the city, ready to be deployed at the first sign of rioting if the officers on trial over the beating of Mr. King were acquitted.

Extra police were on the streets. The Guardian Angels, a volunteer organisation that patrols city streets to deter crime, was preparing to get involved.

When the officers were acquitted by a state jury 12 months ago of using excessive force, four days of rioting ensued in which 33 people were killed.

This time, the officers are on trial on federal charges over Mr. King's beating, which was captured on videotape by a resident of the northwest Los Angeles neighbourhood where it took place in the early hours of March 3, 1991.

California Governor Pete Wilson ordered guardsmen to be in their barracks by 7.00 a.m. PDT (1200 GMT) Monday and a guard spokesman said many had already reported for duty Sunday.

A Los Angeles Times poll published Sunday showed that while most residents feared the verdict might trigger riots, 58 per cent believed violence could be prevented. A majority were confident police could protect their neighbourhoods.

Despite assurances from Police Chief Willie Williams that authorities were ready, many Korean shopkeepers, targeted by looters and arsonists last year,

The fish are considered auspicious for Japanese ceremonies.

Ms. Owada's only words during the ceremony were: "I humbly accept."

The ceremony, over in less than five minutes, is basically unchanged from that conducted in 1959 when Empress Michiko, the wife of Emperor Akihito, became engaged to the emperor, then the crown prince.

A small army of newspaper and television reporters were camped outside the house, while media helicopters flew overhead. Many television networks broadcast live from outside the house for two or three hours.

Ms. Owada, now formally betrothed to the prince, will be considered a semi-official member of the royal family.

A series of ceremonies is scheduled before the wedding in June. Japanese news reports give June 9 as the most likely wedding date, but the Imperial Household Agency has not made an official announcement.

Los Angeles prepares for worst at jurors ponder

LOS ANGELES (R) — Los Angeles prepared for the worst Monday as jurors entered a third day of deliberations over the fate of four white police officers accused of violating black motorist Rodney King's civil rights.

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Despite assurances from Police Chief Willie Williams that authorities were ready, many Korean shopkeepers, targeted by looters and arsonists last year,

Some have closed their shops and boarded up the windows.

Mr. Williams ordered 600 extra police onto the streets Sunday and planned to assign more men and women Monday.

In the Compton and Long Beach suburbs, both badly hit by last year's riots, all police leave was cancelled and officers were to start 12-hour shifts instead of the usual eight hours.

Lisa Siwa, the wife of Guardian Angels founder Curtis Siwa, arrived in Los Angeles from New York on Sunday to help coordinate the Angels' response to any riots.

She said she thought the four men, Sergeant Stacey Koon, Officers Laurence Powell and Theodore Briseno, and former officer Timothy Wind, should be found guilty. But she said the unarmed Guardian Angels would be ready to deal with rioters.

"Let's say there are people looting and burning a 7-11 (convenience) Store. They are ready to find 10 Angeles ready to deal with them," she said in an interview.

Weston Conwell, director of the group's southwest region, said at least 300 Angeles, who wear distinctive red berets, would be on the streets in groups of 10 once the verdicts came in.

"We are bringing them in from as far away as Sacramento (the state capital)," he said.

At Easter services in Los Angeles Sunday, religious leaders pleaded for peace.

"We don't want to see the violence in the streets anymore," said the Rev. Major Johnson, a pastor at a black church in suburban Carson. "We're going to do everything in our power to convince people that there's a better way."

U.N. to try to protect Vietnamese in Cambodia

HANOI (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali told Vietnamese leaders Monday the U.N. would do all it could to protect ethnic Vietnamese from attack by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

"I assured all the leaders of Vietnam that UNTAC will try its best, with the resources at its disposal, to protect the ethnic Vietnamese people in Cambodia," he told a news conference after two days of talks.

He did not detail what the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) could do to protect ethnic Vietnamese, dozens of whom have been killed in Khmer Rouge attacks in Cambodia this year.

Vietnam has repeatedly asked the international body, overseeing the transition from civil war to multi-party elections, to use its authority to stop the killings.

Dr. Ghali said he told the Vietnamese that Cambodia's elections would be held on schedule next month, and that head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk had agreed, at his request, to strengthen cooperation with UNTAC before, during and after the polls.

"This, I believe, will provide a source of great strength and support to the United Nations during the crucial weeks ahead," he said.

He welcomed a statement by Prince Sihanouk deploring violence and calling on Cambodians to lay down arms.

Sung, was elected to the nation's top military post Friday. He is thought to be behind the North's hardline defiance of the world over the nuclear programme.

The Seoul cabinet planned to hold a ministerial-level meeting Tuesday to tackle the North Korean nuclear impasse, a Unification Ministry official said.

"The ministers will discuss various concrete measures to induce North Korea to end its nuclear defiance," he said.

He said the measures under discussion would include halting South Korea's annual Team Spirit war games with U.S. forces, helping Pyongyang to negotiate directly with Washington on the nuclear issue and resuming direct inter-Korean economic exchanges.

Those measures are among the major demands by the North to improve relations with the South.

Pyongyang last month announced its withdrawal from the global nuclear non-proliferation treaty rather than accept International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of the two nuclear sites.

The move heightened suspi-

6th Pakistani minister quits cabinet

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Monday, joining a cabinet exodus that threatens to topple the fragile coalition government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Mr. Ali criticised what he called Mr. Sharif's autocratic style of

government, complained that the prime minister had failed to discuss his policy proposals and had ignored his ministry. He called on Mr. Sharif to step down.

Mr. Ali was the sixth minister to submit his resignation to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in just over two weeks, aggravating a

crisis that could prompt the president to use his power to dissolve parliament.

The string of resignations coincides with a bitter feud between Mr. Sharif and the 78-year-old Ishaq Khan over an attempt by the prime minister to curb the president's powers.

Hanoi report hints at deception on PoWs

NEW YORK (R) — A secret report written in 1972 by a North Vietnamese general said hundreds more U.S. prisoners of war were being held by Hanoi than were officially accounted for at the time, the New York Times reported Monday.

The newspaper, in a report from Moscow, said the document had been delivered to the Communist Party politburo in Hanoi in September 1972. A copy was discovered in Moscow in the archives of the Soviet Communist Party.

It said the document, which was authenticated by experts, showed that North Vietnam was holding 1,205 U.S. prisoners at a time when officials were saying the number was only 368.

The New York Times quoted experts as saying the document was a "smoking gun" which proved Hanoi had been withholding information about the fate of U.S. prisoners of war.

More than 2,000 Americans remain listed as missing in action or unaccounted for after the war, which ended in 1975.

The secret North Vietnamese document, which was discovered in Moscow earlier this year by a U.S. researcher, gives a detailed account of 1,205 prisoners held in 11 North Vietnamese prisons in the autumn of 1972, at a time when peace talks were under way in Paris. Its author was named as General Tran Van Quang.

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5 prisoners dead, 8 guards taken hostage in Ohio prison riot

LUCASVILLE, Ohio (R) — Five prisoners were beaten to death by fellow inmates and eight guards were taken hostage during violence at a prison in Ohio, officials said Monday.

Rebellious inmates in a cellblock housing 760 of the 1,800 prisoners at the maximum security southern Ohio correctional facility were holding the eight guards hostage, said Tessa Unwin, a spokesperson for Ohio's Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

Ms. Unwin said prison guards were called in to quell a fight around noon Sunday. When the trouble escalated, a number of the guards were forced to retreat, leaving some prison staff hostage.

Prisoners later freed three of the guards.

Early Monday, the rebellious inmates "gave up" the bodies of five prisoners, all of whom had been beaten to death, Ms. Unwin said.

Seven guards who escaped from the cellblock were injured, one suffering a broken arm and the rest minor injuries.

Earlier, a corrections spokeswoman said the incident appeared to have begun as a spontaneous riot at the prison housing the state's most violent criminals.

"Some inmates fought and some guards tried to intervene," she said.

Ms. Unwin said negotiations were continuing but that no details would be available until the hostages had been freed.

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S. Korea bids to solve nuclear impasse with North

SEOUL (R) — South Korea, fearing the threat of a military strike by an increasingly isolated North Korea, said Monday it would hold talks with China next week over Pyongyang's continuing nuclear defiance.

A Seoul government spokesman said Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo would meet his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in Thailand, hoping Peking could use its influence to persuade the North to open up two suspected nuclear facilities.

"The two governments have agreed a meeting between ministers Han and Qian next week when the U.N. ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) conference is scheduled in Bangkok," the ministry official said.

The meeting would be probably be held on April 21.

Defence Minister Kwon Young-Hae told South Korean state television Sunday he feared the North may "make a test provocation" against the South following last week's appointment of Kim Jong-Il as supreme military commander.

Mr. Kim, son and heir-apparent of Stalinist leader Kim Il-

Sung, was elected to the nation's top military post Friday. He is thought to be behind the North's hardline defiance of the world over the nuclear programme.

The Seoul cabinet planned to hold a ministerial-level meeting Tuesday to tackle the North Korean nuclear impasse, a Unification Ministry official said.

"The ministers will discuss various concrete measures to induce North Korea to end its nuclear defiance," he said.

He said the measures under discussion would include halting South Korea's annual Team Spirit war games with U.S. forces, helping Pyongyang to negotiate directly with Washington on the nuclear issue and resuming direct inter-Korean economic exchanges.

Those measures are among the major demands by the North to improve relations with the South.

Pyongyang last month announced its withdrawal from the global nuclear non-proliferation treaty rather than accept International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of the two nuclear sites.

The move heightened suspi-

cions in Seoul and among its Western allies that North Korea had either succeeded in building a nuclear weapon or was on the verge of doing so. The North denies it is producing nuclear weapons.

The IAEA has referred Pyongyang's refusal of nuclear inspection to the U.N. Security Council, which has expressed concern but held off from imposing possible sanctions.

China, North Korea's long-time ally, has warned against any United Nations intervention and could block any sanctions.

Pyongyang Monday showed no sign of backing down. North Korea's ambassador to Peking accused the IAEA of deferring to Washington on the issue of nuclear inspection.

Chu Chang Jun told a news conference the United States "has forced the IAEA to dance to its tune."

"The United States wants to strangle our country. The actions and behaviour of some members of the IAEA secretariat, who were working at the instigation of the United States, have complicated the situation," Mr. Chu

said.

North Korea also attacked Russia over its admission that it secretly dumped nuclear waste off the Korean peninsula.

A Foreign Ministry statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency said Moscow had no right to lecture on nuclear issues while it was polluting the global environment.

The agency, monitored in Tokyo, quoted the official statement as saying it was ridiculous for Russia to take issue with "the fictitious nuclear problem" of North Korea after secretly dumping nuclear waste in the Japan Sea.

It cited Russia's admission that the Soviet Navy had systematically dumped nuclear waste into the Japan Sea and other oceans for decades, and that the Russian Navy had continued the practice after the collapse of the Soviet state.

"It is the nuclear powers which threaten other nations with nuclear weapons and create danger to ecology with nuclear wastes that must stand before the United Nations for deliberation and condemnation," Pyongyang said.

Prince Charles in children's film

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles turned TV actor for a children's film broadcast Sunday. The Legend of Lochnagar, inspired by a book he published in 1980. The 44-year-old prince appeared in live action sequences at the beginning and end of the animated film about an old Scot who sets up his bathtub in a remote highland cave without a thought to the effects it will have on his surroundings. He is taught to be a good neighbour by tiny people called gorms who use a shrinking machine to bring the old man down to eye-level. At the end of the film prince Charles, too, is shrunk into a gorm-size figure at his own fire-side. This reportedly was his own idea. "It's about time the Prince of